

Community loses a hero
Tom Vindeed, dedicated to
charities and gay softball, dies at 62.
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Sexy German stud wins!
Nuremburg's Stefan Müller
takes IML prize in Chicago.
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Queer sidekick
'Codename: Knockout' pairs
tough girl with gay man.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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transgender communities since 1971

AIDS at 20

**DPH's Mitch Katz
looks back with
sadness and
some hope**

by David Fraser

If we spin out the metaphors of our life in what we do, Dr. Mitchell Katz is on a personal HIV/AIDS bike marathon, pedaling a road between hope and despair.

Arriving at his Civic Center office on his bicycle, the director of San Francisco's Department of Public Health allowed that the ride to work downhill from Twin Peaks was smooth enough. Going up again, he said with a smile, can be a struggle.

Dressed in jeans, short sleeves, and bike helmet, Katz said with a grin that he changes his clothes when heading "over there" across the street to City Hall.

In a May 22 interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Katz talked with clarity and tears about how HIV, AIDS, promise, and loss have shaped his life and world over the 20 years since the disease – then a mystery – was first publicly identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on June 5, 1981.

AIDS over 20 years

Katz traced the history of AIDS: "People were infected in San Francisco as early as 1978. By 1981 there



Dr. Mitchell Katz

were documented cases at San Francisco General of these weird opportunistic cases that no one had ever seen before in healthy young men. "By about 1982, there was an understanding on the street that there was this illness, that it was occurring in gay men, and the strong suspicion in the community itself that it was somehow related to sex. "The earliest prevention messages, which were not very good, were: be sure that your partner was healthy, and limit the number of partners that you have. "So the earliest bad advice was based on the findings that some people had outrageous numbers of partners – and I say that with some admiration – they were people who were enjoying a healthy sex life; there was no reason that they shouldn't have had thousands of partners, at that time."

Squeamish about anal sex

But, said Katz, as with any infectious disease, as HIV became more common, people started to realize in 1984-1985 that the number of partners didn't matter as much as the sexual acts: "Pretty early on, the analysis was showing that it was anal intercourse that was the strongest [factor], and every single study showed the same thing."

Even now, he sees a kind of squeamishness, especially among doctors, about using even clinical terms like insertive or receptive anal intercourse "that doesn't help prevention one bit ..."

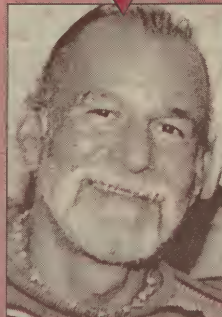
"Every time I go to a prevention conference I try to say, and frankly I feel like I'm one of the few people who ever says it, that in San Francisco at this time, if you eliminate unprotected receptive anal intercourse by HIV-negative men when having sex with HIV-pos-

**For a long-term
survivor, grief
& happiness go
hand in hand**

by Katie Szymanski

Medicines, apartments, and lovers have all come and gone in Raymond Montez's history with AIDS, but his personal experience with the disease has remained pretty constant: except for a brief life-threatening infection in the 1990s, he has been relatively healthy, he says, since he first tested positive in 1986.

For the past three years, Montez has lived in the Richard M. Cohen Residence for people with AIDS, a 10-bed program for formerly homeless men with debilitating HIV that is run by Dolores Street Community Services. Located in a beautiful landmark Victorian cottage with a backyard garden oasis, the Cohen residence provides 24-hour care to people who are coping with AIDS-related disabilities but do not need hospice care. Meals, assistance with medication, visiting nurse and attendant care, financial management, transportation, activities, and access to men-




PWA Raymond Montez

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Former OJ lawyer hired in dog mauling case

by Ed Walsh

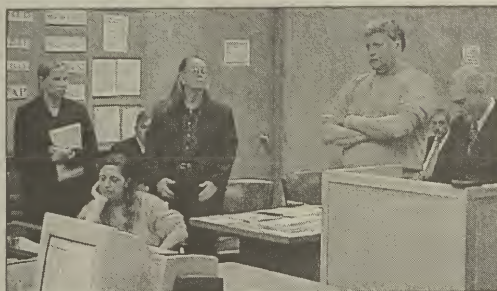
Former O.J. Simpson attorney Robert Blasier has been hired to work for Marjorie Knoller, one of the caretakers of the dogs involved in the deadly January attack on Diane Whipple.

In a brief telephone interview with the *Bay Area Reporter* this week, Blasier said he had been consulting with Knoller for "a while" but the Sacramento attorney wouldn't comment on why he decided to get involved in the case.

"I'm not her attorney of record," noted Blasier, who added that it's "always possible" he could eventually be her attorney of record.

Both Knoller and her husband, Robert Noel, are currently being represented through the public defender's office. When asked whether he was taking the case pro bono since Knoller and Noel were reportedly financially destitute, Blasier said that he was hired by Knoller's family.

Assistant District Attorney Jim



From left, unidentified woman, Marjorie Knoller, attorney Jan Lecklikner, Robert Noel, and attorney Bruce Hotchkiss.

Hammer said that he's only heard rumors from the press that Knoller has hired a private consultant.

"I think [District Attorney Terence Hallinan] is concerned that if they have the money to hire lawyers, then they have to pay the county back for the use of the public defender," said Hammer.

The couple appeared in court on Tuesday, May 29, and formally

entered their pleas of not guilty. Noel stood with his armed crossed during most of the hearing. Knoller was in a wheelchair, as she had been during the last hearing earlier this month, and looked down with her eyes closed or nearly closed through most of the proceeding. It was reported that she had been experiencing panic attacks but no mention was made at

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Jury awards \$65K in discrimination case

by Katie Szymanski

Even in this oppressive rental climate, sometimes the underdogs do come out on top. A San Francisco jury on May 23 ordered Benicia resident and San Francisco landlord James Calcagno to pay \$65,000 in damages for violating the California Fair Employment and Housing Act when he refused to rent or even show an apartment to a gay African American man.

The complaint, which was filed in San Francisco Superior Court last June, alleged that on February 9, 2000, Ed Greene traveled to 1411 Florida Street to inquire about a vacant unit owned by Calcagno. Previously, a friend of Greene's had been by the place and was quoted a price of \$900 and told by Calcagno that the tenant was moving out at the beginning of that month. When Greene arrived, he spoke with Calcagno, who allegedly de-

nied that an apartment was for rent, then said, "I might have an apartment, but it will not be ready for another month." Calcagno then allegedly quoted Greene a rent price of \$1,200 to \$1,300.

According to the complaint, Greene asked if he could see the apartment, and was told it was not ready to be shown. Greene asked if he could fill out an application and was told there were no applications available. Greene then said it was unfortunate that Calcagno was making different rules for Greene, at which point Calcagno allegedly slammed the door in Greene's face and said, "fucking nigger."

Although the defense basically presented a case that denied any such incident occurred, according to Greene's attorney Gary Cloutier with the firm Wotman & Cloutier, Calcagno's deposition revealed his own admission that he was reluctant to show the apartment because he believed Greene to be a homeless person.

"That area is street people all over there," said Calcagno, according to a record of his deposition.

Greene is an administrator at Stanford University.

Richard Chiozza, the attorney representing Calcagno, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the reason Greene was denied entry to the building was because he showed up unannounced.

"My client was doing work on the unit. It was not ready to be shown, and he did not have an application with him," said Chiozza, who added that he respected the jury's decision but is considering an appeal based on a ruling of law.

Although only nine juror votes were required for Greene to win the lawsuit, the verdict was unanimous, 12-0.

"Racism is something fairly prevalent in American society," Cloutier told the *B.A.R.* "But it's a rare case when we're able to prove a discriminatory animus in refusing to provide a service." ▼

Goats to help city take a nibble at blight

by David Fraser

Abetted and aided by 100 goats, city workers and volunteers are poised to kick off June's neighborhood cleanup campaign in San Francisco's District 8 on June 9.

Alexander Mamak of the city's Department of Public Works promised that a herd of goats from Goats R Us will be chomping the hillsides of Twin Peaks.

"It's the first time we've had animal volunteers," laughed Mamak, DPW's director of public affairs. The pilot Clean City project was launched last November and is now a citywide effort.

The cleanup proceeds in stages month-by-month by district. Next month will see volunteer efforts on June 9, 16, and 23. The Twin Peaks activity will start at 9 a.m. on June 9, and run for a couple of hours.

On June 16, the cleanup will be at Mission Dolores Park, and a

week later work will commence at the James Lick Middle School, 1220 Noe at Clipper, focusing on public buildings and a nearby police station.

Information on volunteering and meeting places can be found at the Clean City Coalition's Web site, <http://www.sfcleancity.com/index.html>, and two-legged volunteers can sign up by calling (415) 554-5447.

The coalition is a community-based umbrella organization, organized in conjunction with DPW, the mayor's office, and other city departments. Work often involves people from fire and police departments, schools, and church groups.

"We give them a T-shirt, refreshments, a pizza lunch," Mamak said. "The main purpose is to increase awareness of people's responsibility to keep San Francisco clean."

The department also targets school kids with the idea of community service, through a club and

through rewards at department and other stores. Earning a certain number of work credits brings discounts.

Behind the scenes, he added, the city does "a lot of stuff that volunteers can't do for safety reasons, such as road work. We'll do most of the heavy stuff, with volunteers handling remaining items like clearing weeds. The goats are going to help with that."

"We ask people to tell us their needs," Mamak said. "Some places are highly susceptible to illegal dumping... these are people littering for profit."

Mamak told the *Bay Area Reporter* the cleanup doesn't require additional funding: "There's no budget; it's based on our current street cleaning. We're working smarter by designating [city] people to work on Saturday, and then take Monday off."

Supplies, he said, are being donated by the Clean City Coalition, as well as firms such as Walgreens, Pacific Bell, and Michelin Tires. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

McGoldrick's housing bill heads toward full board vote

by David Fraser

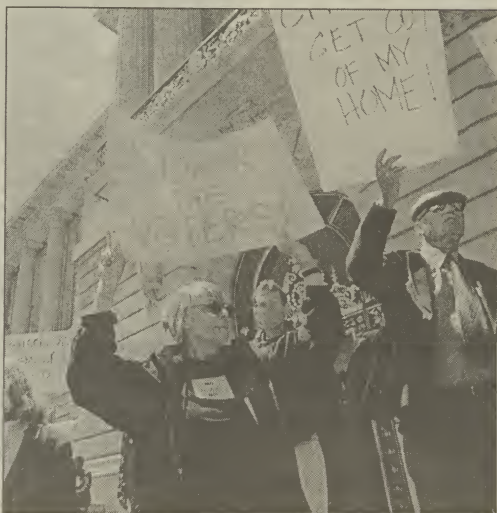
Amid impassioned testimony from pro-tenant and pro-homeowner groups, a San Francisco Board of Supervisors committee voted at a public hearing last Thursday, May 24, to proceed with a key housing ordinance that would limit, but not obliterate, tenancies-in-common.

Known as the "home ownership for tenants" ordinance, the proposal by Supervisor Jake McGoldrick is expected to go before the full board for a vote, perhaps as early as this Monday, June 4.

It is designed, McGoldrick said, to protect renters from unregulated conversions of their units into TICs, while helping tenants at or below median income to buy their units.

The legislation offers an alternative to a TIC-conversion measure by Supervisor Chris Daly that would limit TIC conversions to 200 per year. Currently there are no limits on such conversions, and hundreds of rental units are taken off the market each year.

Daly, whose ordinance was tabled, told the *Bay Area Reporter*: "Hopefully, we can get [McGoldrick's ordinance] through the entire board. I think he really attempted to hear the affordability argument ... the addition of 200 units speaks to that argu-



Protesters opposed to Supervisor Jake McGoldrick's proposed tenant ordinance demonstrated outside City Hall on May 24. A contingent of tenant activists also staged a rally.

ment, without jeopardizing additional seniors or others with eviction."

The ordinance needs six votes to pass, but requires eight to override a possible veto by Mayor Willie Brown. Brown has not said how he would react to passage.

Demo and counterdemo

The hearing drew hundreds of people to City Hall. A scheduled demonstration by pro-owner neighborhood groups was preceded and more or less supplanted by a counterdemonstration by pro-

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Man who helps AIDS survivors in Africa, Latin America, faces eviction

by David Fraser

Homer Hobi collects AIDS medicines to send to Latin America and Africa. He's got AIDS himself.

In January he returned to San Francisco after a 19-hour flight from South America. His new landlord greeted him with the news that he was going to get an Ellis Act eviction from his Noe Valley apartment.

The state Ellis Act allows landlords to evict tenants but they cannot rent the property for 10 years.

"I'm on disability with AIDS, so I don't know what the outcome is going to be," Hobi told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "As a person on disability, I have a one-year waiver [on moving]. I'm working with a lawyer via the AIDS Legal Referral Panel."

He is scheduled to be evicted on May 3, 2002.

Hobi, 55, shared his story last week at a Board of Supervisors hearing before a panel considering two proposals to limit conversions of rental units to tenancies-in-common.

The panel voted to send Supervisor Jake McGoldrick's ordinance to the full board for a vote [see story above]. Hobi was one of many residents who offered testimony at the May 24 hearing; many of the speakers said they supported the tenants' side.

Opponents say the city has no business intruding into ownership and argue that TIC conversions should not be regulated.



Homer Hobi faces eviction

"I've been here five years," Hobi said. "My old landlady died; I helped care for her and her heirs wanted to accommodate my desire to stay in the unit."

'No picnic'

"As soon as I met the new landlord, he informed me he wanted to evict me. Since then, there's been tremendous stress. Living with AIDS is not a picnic; I've got allergic reactions all over and people all around me are dying."

"Eviction is going to have an impact on the people I'm sending medicines to. I don't know if I can continue the level of support I've been giving these people."

Hobi, who is also a Survive AIDS activist, also told the *B.A.R.*: "I just wonder about the whole ethics of taking someone on a dis-

ability with a terminal illness, and saying, 'You're outta here.' This happened after they bought the building knowing I was living there, with full disclosure ... it's extremely unethical. They got a good price because the heirs sold below market price" to help him.

His apartment is one of two in the Noe Valley building.

Hobi is the engine of his organization, Positive Humanists and Friends. It collects AIDS medicines donated by individuals, doctors, and others. Hobi said the medicines keep about 70 people alive who would likely otherwise die; the drugs go to AIDS service organizations in Kenya, Cuba, Chile, and Mexico.

In Latin America, most recipients are gay men, while in Kenya it's a mixed group.

"In 1997 someone asked if I could get some medications, and I said yes. That started the ball rolling," Hobi said.

"I don't know how long I have to live," he added. "I keep going because I still have things to do." ▼

Medicine drop-off points in the Bay Area include the Immune Enhancement Project, the Pacific Center in Berkeley, and in Sonoma County at Food for Thought. For information on Positive Humanists and Friends, contact Homer Hobi at (415) 285-0606, or at hobi@toast.net. The Web site is <http://members.aol.com/aidrx/>

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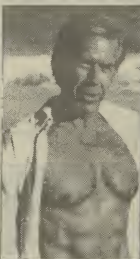
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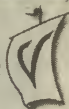
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SANTA CRUZ COUNTY CONFERENCE AND VISITORS COUNCIL

Santa Cruz Pride march, rally this Sun.

by Cynthia Laird

If you want to see gay Pride on a smaller, more intimate scale than San Francisco's extravaganza, head down to the coastal city of Santa Cruz this Sunday, June 3 for the 27th annual Queer Pride March and Rally.

This year's theme is "2001: still here, still queer!" The Sunday event includes a march and rally, as well as booths and entertainment. Previous Pride events have attracted thousands of onlookers and participants. Last year's march also garnered organizers a bronze "Goldie" award from the readers of *Metro Santa Cruz* for "Best Festival/Community Celebration."

The march will get under way at 11 a.m. Organizers said this year, the parade route has been extended and starts at Elm Street, continuing along Pacific Avenue to San Lorenzo Park.

According to its Web site, there will be a silent auction. While Pride is not considered a fundraiser, organizers noted it costs about \$15,000 to put the event together.

"We'll have some familiar faces on stage, and some new voices — many folks who have made it possible for us to keep doing what we do, and some who hadn't been born when the first Pride happened here," organizers said.



Proud lesbians in the 1994 Santa Cruz gay Pride march.

In 1975, a handful of Santa Cruz residents decided to take the then-radical step of organizing a local gay pride celebration. The first gay pride march in the country had happened five years earlier on the first anniversary of the

Stonewall riots, and many, much larger cities were still years away from a Pride day of their own. ▼

For more information, go to www.santacruzpride.org.

The Laramie Project benefit performance June 9 at Berkeley Repertory Theatre

by David Fraser

The *Laramie Project*, a powerful play about the killing of Matthew Shepard and the town where he died, opens for two benefit performances on June 9 at Berkeley Repertory's new state-of-the-art Roda Theatre, 2015 Addison Street in Berkeley.

The benefit performances are being sponsored by Our Family, a Bay Area LGBT family group.

"The *Laramie Project* is about what it's like to be different in America," says Our Family director Jon Logan.

Tickets are available for matinee and evening performances.

The 2 p.m. matinee has a \$50 "no frills" ticket. For \$75 to \$125, there is a matinee reception after the show, featuring wine, hors d'oeuvres, and cast members.

For the 8 p.m. performance, tickets are priced at \$75 to \$250. All tickets include an early evening reception before the show, and for those who purchase \$250 tickets, there will be a catered dinner at the theater before the evening performance.

For tickets and information, call Our Family at (510) 540-7784.

In 1998, 10 New Yorkers traveled to Laramie, Wyoming a month after the murder of Shep-

ard, a University of Wyoming student killed because he was gay.

The New York visitors were director Moises Kaufman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project. During the following year, the project made six trips to Wyoming and conducted more than 200 documented interviews of residents, eventually turning what they learned into *The Laramie Project*.

Kaufman, Tectonic's founder and artistic director, wrote the play and is directing the production, with additional staging by Leigh Fondakowski, in a co-production with the La Jolla Play-

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LGBT public spaces on exhibit this month

by Katie Szymanski

The Tavern Guild, Metropolitan Community Church, the Women's Building, and other important institutions will be featured at the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California's "Making a Case for Community History," an annual exhibition that joins museum curators with grassroots groups to help them collect and tell their own stories.

The exhibition opens tonight (Thursday, May 31), at the Yerba Buena Performing Arts Theater, Third and Howard streets, in San Francisco. Hours of operation are 6:30-8 p.m. everyday, with additional times of 1-5 p.m. on weekends.

This year's exhibition will highlight the transformations of public space for the LGBT com-

munity. The Tavern Guild was formed in the 1960s as a way for gay bar owners to ban together in the face of increasing police harassment and gay bar closures. Metropolitan Community Church was a way for LGBT Christians to spiritually organize without prejudice. The exhibition also features three contemporary activist sites: the Women's Building, the first women-owned multi-racial community center in the country, which brought together movements usually separated by identity politics; the Pacific Center for Human Growth, serving the LGBT community's mental health and HIV counseling needs; and African American churches that have seen much LGBT organizing within Baptist, Church of God in Christ, and Methodist congregations.

Forgotten photographs, but-

tons, fliers, and media will all be on display as part of the project. "Making a Case for Community History" is at the Yerba Buena Theater through June 21, and will then move to the Civic Center for the San Francisco Pride festival on June 23 and 24. For more information, visit www.glbthistory.org. ▼

Correction

The article, "Carl's Jr. faces TG discrimination suit," in the May 24 *Bay Area Reporter* erroneously stated that trans and/or gender identity is a protected class in the state of California. Although a bill is pending, there is presently no state law protecting transgenders from discrimination in public accommodations.

A commitment to care for people with AIDS

and a salute to HEALTH CARE WORKERS UNION, SEIU 250, AFL-CIO

‘For 20 years, health care workers have reached out to wrap their arms of compassion, comfort and care around those we love. It is now our turn to wrap our collective arms around these workers and tell them we care as they have cared. These workers are true heroes in the fight against AIDS and thanking them is most appropriate’

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What a killer

It started out as "gay cancer," and became GRID before it was given the name AIDS, and what a killer it is.

We are angry that so many lives have been cut short by this disease. There's not a week that goes by that we don't have something AIDS-related in the paper, and we are angry that 20 years later, we still have to cover a disease that doesn't look like it will be curable in the next 20 years, if ever.

Tuesday, June 5 marks the 20th anniversary of the first mention of a strange infection among several gay men in Los Angeles, some of whom had died. The item in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* would be picked up by just a few reporters.

In San Francisco, public health officials were noticing "weird opportunistic infections" in gay men, who started dying.

Those early years of the AIDS epidemic saw thousands of people — mostly gay men — ravaged by a disease that had no cure and virtually no treatment. Today, two decades later, thousands are still dying, and outside of the United States in regions such as sub-Saharan Africa most are heterosexual. While there are improved treatment regimens, they don't work for everyone — indeed some can't even get access to them — and come with significant side effects.

So what has changed in 20 years? In some ways much has changed, in other ways, little has changed. People are still getting infected after nearly 20 years of safe sex messages, an indication that prevention messages need to be seriously revamped. Heterosexual Americans, for the most part, become squeamish when discussion of reducing HIV infections turns to anal intercourse, one of the main transmission routes for HIV outside of IV drug use. The LGBT community has always been more adept at talking frankly about sex, and in this age of AIDS that's a good thing. Unfortunately, we must deal with many in the scientific, medical, and political establishments who are extremely uncomfortable talking about sex. Thus, messages get diluted and lose their effectiveness.

San Francisco's openly gay health director, Dr. Mitch Katz, is correct when he says

that the goal of being explicit about sexual practices has never really been fully achieved. Doctors talk about how gay men should be careful about unprotected anal intercourse, Katz told us in an interview last week, when in fact insertive anal intercourse carries a relatively low risk when compared to receptive anal intercourse.

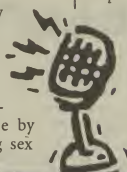
For about the last year, Katz has been telling anyone who will listen that, "If you eliminate unprotected receptive anal intercourse by HIV-negative men when having sex with HIV-positive men, you would eliminate at least 95 percent of the seroconversions among men who have sex with men, everything else being equal."

The tired "wear a condom always" safe sex message, Katz says, has been much more political than epidemiologic. "It means you don't have to talk to your partner about his

status ... doctors and prevention people don't have to get into what kind of sex you have, the advice can apply to gay and straight people, you know, just wear a condom all the time. It's a perfect solution except that nobody will do it."

While the future in terms of treating AIDS looks infinitely better now than 20 years ago, the same can't be said for prevention. And all of the blame can't be placed on the gay community. Society must accept responsibility for perpetuating discrimination against gays, whether they are HIV-positive or HIV-negative. The great hypocrisy, as Dr. Donald Abrams has said, is that HIV prevention messages preach monogamy, yet many in this country oppose gay marriage.

So while people pause and reflect on AIDS at 20, this is one anniversary we certainly won't be celebrating. ▼



Editorial

THE MOST OBJECTIONABLE AIDS DRUG SIDE EFFECT:
MEMORY LOSSLOVERS FRIENDS SONS
WIVES HUSBANDS DAUGHTERS
WIVES FATHERS MOTHERS22 MILLION DEAD
40 MILLION INFECTEDYEARS
NEVER FORGET.

Time to pop the bubble

by Jeff Getty

Ever since the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, the media has played a crucial role. Since TV and the mainstream press have always boiled AIDS down to minimal coverage and sound bites, we see what amounts to an AIDS reporting roller coaster ride. One year AIDS is cured or treatable, the next year it is back to doom and gloom. Now 20 years after the first CDC AIDS report, many people think that AIDS is no longer a threat, that it is a chronic but treatable disease. We are at the top of the coaster just now. And we have hasty media reports and glamorous HIV drug advertisements to blame. But we can also blame ourselves. There is a new HIV denialism. It is the idea that one will no longer suffer and die from HIV infection, and denial that spreading it to someone else will cause them any harm.

Over the past few weeks, the nation's media outlets have been busily building a series of stories and articles about AIDS 20 years later. Many activists and nonprofit folks have been asked to tell their sad stories or comment on various angles in the epidemic. Over and over the HIV community has had to stress to reporters that AIDS is not yet under control in this country — let alone the rest of the world. Watch the messages in the press in coming days and see if we have been able to shift the media's message back toward reality: AIDS is still often fatal, the HIV drug side effects can be worse than the disease, and most of the rest of people in the world with AIDS are still being left to die. We'll be lucky to get two of these three important facts across.

And the reporters keep asking those tough unanswerable questions such as: Why

are gay men still having multiple sex partners and advertising for unsafe sex on the Internet? And, why would anyone advertise that their viral load is undetectable in a sex ad? After interviewing a HIV-positive gay man who had bragged about having dozens of recent sex partners and never disclosing his HIV status, reporter Leslie Stahl asked me to explain. Off-camera I told her that many people in my community, especially the sick and dying, feel outrage and deep sadness about such activity. On-camera, I blamed poor education and misleading advertising. But the bare truth is this: so many gay men have bought into the "HIV is cured or treatable" myth that they no longer worry about transmitting it to others. Stahl had me on the spot. One of the CBS producers remarked that all men, gay and straight, are sex pigs.

But there was a brief time when we thought with our brains rather than our dicks.

One week after Andrew Sullivan's Web site attacked the campaign to get the HIV drug ads fixed, a furious rumor circulated over the Internet that Sullivan had another Web site — a barebacking Web page. [Editor's note: The Bay Area Reporter e-mailed Sullivan for a response to the Internet allegations about the barebacking Web site; to date no response has been received.] To me it made sense, if the drug ads were causing unsafe sex as the Department of Public Health's Dr. Jeff Klausner asserts, then it follows that people into regular unsafe sex might have liked those mountain climbing and pretty-boy ads. After all, why should anyone worry about spreading a disease that according to the ads, would lead to a normal or even athletic life? Angry letters came in defending

survival optimism, most expressing the same message: "Don't mess with our ads." That spells out the new denial. Since the advent of HIV treatment, it's as if a delusional bubble now surrounds many HIV-infected gay men. They like to think it's over.

Go back to work, go back to sex, and don't look back — ever. Last Sunday I saw a sick and dying man walking with his mother in a gay neighborhood. Nobody smiled. Nobody offered to help. They just stared right through him — as if he did not exist. It won't happen to them. It can't.

At a recent late-stage AIDS support group held in San Francisco, all the participants agreed that the most difficult emotional hurdle in AIDS was living from day to day without a future. Anyone of the group could one day get their HIV under control and possibly even get their T-cells back up to a safe number. They then might re-enter the bubble as well — re-enter the happy

realm where future plans can be made and one's sex life could return to piggy proportions. Life in a fantasy world is better than life without any future. Unfortunately in some cases, getting well also begets getting unwell, if you know what I mean.

The San Francisco AIDS Foundation needs to be thanked for its recent prevention campaign. Campaigns aimed at HIV-positive men are also long overdue. Because the long-term reality of AIDS is an unpleasant life filled with nasty drug side effects, illness, depression, and no future.

It's time to pop the bubble. The drug ads weren't real. There is no cure or vaccine in sight. Having unsafe sex destroys people's lives. Could this still be happening after 20 years? ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Young gays need wake-up call

Younger gay men today deserve a good whippin'. Not in a sexual way but as a wake-up call. Recently I again experienced another one of those cookie-cutter types of young gays. This particular greasy glossy gel-haired, Gillette-destroyed body of a homosexual was so rude to a gay senior I wanted to just haul off and tackle him to the ground and break into the Broadway show tune of "You'll Never Get Away From Me" from *Gypsy* and force him to listen to every word until he sweats so much that his hair gel just slides off the back of his head into a puddle and stains the concrete not unlike like some of our gay grandparents, who were beat and dragged to the ground and left in pools of their own blood.

Younger gay men these days are spoiled, seem to have no respect, nor do they know about gut-wrenching suffering. Their idea of suffering is not being able to buy a ticket to the Madonna concert that went on sale on a foggy Sunday morning in San Francisco. And in terms of communication, God forbid. The younger ones might fear that the heavens would open up and Handel's *Messiah* would blare out should one of them actually say hello to someone over 40 on their walks to get their \$2 cups of coffee. Actually, how stupid of me, they probably have never even heard of Handel's *Messiah* masterpiece unless of course it is mixed into one of their latest circuit dance DVD-CD-cassette blah, blah, blah thinges.

Our gay seniors are our pioneers, they helped pave our way to live the way we live today, albeit not totally free in society's view, but a hell of a lot better than years gone past. I would ask if you are a younger gay man, that you take some time and maybe read about your gay history instead of blasting your Sony Walkman in your ears or blabbing your head off in a public facility on your new chrome Minolta cell phone.

Tom Finan
San Francisco

A bigger pink triangle

Thank you very much for Cynthia Laird's article on the Pink Triangle ["Think pink!" May 10]. It was very informative, and your coverage of the project helped bring out supporters to help paint the tarps for this year's display. We are very appreciative. The installation and dedication program will be Saturday, June 23 on Twin Peaks. We hope it will educate many and help foster hate crime preventive measures.

This year we are proud to announce that the Pink Triangle will grow even bigger. We are also very pleased that a long desired goal of nighttime illumination of the Pink Triangle will be fulfilled this year. The illumination will be accompanied by search lights throughout the evening of Saturday, June 24.

The following have helped make this year's display possible: Teddy Witherington, executive director of the SFLGBTTPCC (the Pride Celebration Committee), who continues to be a source of great support, and Brittany Weber, event manager of SFLGBTTPCC for her help. Special thanks also to Gardner Pond of the Castro Lions Club, Sister Kitty of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, Donny Tinsley (a.k.a. Tonica Collins), and all of the volunteers who have helped both paint and install the canvasses.

Patrick Carney
Thomas Tremblay
Michael Brown
Friends of the Pink Triangle

Thanks from vigil organizers

On behalf of this year's very grassroots AIDS Candlelight Vigil memorial march, thanks to all the volunteers, sponsors, supporters, and participants who helped with the event. In particular, thanks to Jim Mitulski at the S.F. Public Library's Hormel Center, Debra Kent from the AIDS Research Institute, Eric Bernier from the Edge bar, Mike Shriver from the mayor's office, MJW Graphic Design, Sister Roma, Supervisor Mark Leno and Budget Signs, the Chat Cafe, Cafe San Marcos - the Cafe, Jillian at Dice-A-Roni, Dan Cusick, Ron Strangehouse at the Native American AIDS Institute, Connie Champagne, L.Z. Love, Keith Folger at the Stop AIDS Project, Reg Norton at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, Rick Solomon from Survive AIDS, Hank Wilson from TARC, the MCC-SF congregation, and the memberships of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc. and Survive AIDS.

Once again, our community came together in wonderful form to continue this honored tradition. The sight of thousands of you marching down Market Street with candles and placards in hand is an image not easily forgotten.

Michael Lauro, Survive AIDS
Sister Kitty Catalyst,
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Inc.

Pride theme not funny

I am a very proud gay man who will not be attending the parade this year. Why? The theme this year is "Queerific." Some theme, huh? It is not funny to me. In fact, it is the kind of name that the public laughs at, and promotes violence against gay people. The word puts us down. How can anyone be proud of this theme? I contacted companies promoting the parade, and told them not to contribute to such a "hateful" word. To me, "queer" is just as bad as the word "fag." It is like calling a black person the n-word. Why isn't the Bay Area gay community getting upset over this? Do you folks feel proud of this? If you do, shame on you.

Scott Sproat
Concord, California

B-52's PETA connection

The story, "B-52's set to rock Pride" [May 17] failed to mention the great irony of this year's musical headliners: the B-52's are high-profile, high volume supporters and promoters of PETA - the organization that actively campaigns against the use of animals in AIDS research.

Isn't there something terribly wrong when - in the year the 20th "anniversary" of AIDS is being commemorated - the group that would shut down AIDS research in the name of animals is front and center stage in San Francisco during Pride weekend?

Are the organizers of the San Francisco Pride event (along with United Airlines and the *San Francisco Chronicle* who are making the B-52's appearance possible with a sponsorship) that insensitive to the memories of the thousands who left us too early during the AIDS pandemic? Or are they simply ignorant and need to be educated about their egregious mistake.

Either way it's pitiful.

Bohdan Zachary
Los Angeles, California

Faded grande dame needs work

It was interesting to read about the changes coming to the Castro Theatre ["PlanetOut founder announces Castro Theatre project," May 24]. The departure of the Blumenfeld organization is no loss, but the question remains as to whether the theater owners, the Nasser heirs, will do right by the Castro. Under their ownership, the theater has suffered from neglect for decades. A superficial patch-up will not suffice. The roof has been covered with plastic for months now, while water seeps into the auditorium ceiling, causing the plaster to fall off. Our faded grande dame needs a new electrical and sound system, new bathrooms, new carpet, restoration of the great murals and ceiling, and, most of all, new seats throughout. Visit the Paramount Theatre in Oakland (another design by architect Timothy Pflueger) if you want to see the level of finishes and interior detailing the Castro deserves. But will it get it?

There is no doubt that this is a multimillion dollar project, but do the Nassers care enough to stop siphoning off the income from this cash cow and give back to the building and the community? The existence of a new nonprofit foundation dedicated to the restoration efforts is an interesting development, one that deserves to be watched. Personally, I think this theater needs to be owned by the community that serves and supports it (under the guidance of a nonprofit foundation) or become city property. This is what it took to get the Paramount restored after decades of neglect by its owners. And if San Francisco has to invoke the power of eminent domain to assure the Castro's future, I will certainly not be opposed. Imagine the neighborhood without this theater - it is a gathering place for the community, a party venue, and a great exhibition space for films. The citizens of San Francisco and the residents of the Castro District need to demand this job is not only done right, but right away.

Robert Stone
San Francisco

'Renter's tax' a good idea

Tony Hall mentioned a great idea at a recent Board of Supervisors meeting, "tax the renter." This city should start a "renter's tax." That way, 67 percent of the people who currently do not contribute will contribute to the city's budget.

If each occupied rental unit paid \$10 per month (\$120 a year) it would be a drop in the bucket compared to what I paid in property tax this year. Imagine how much more money this city would have to fund the many programs including the free legal services for tenants facing eviction.

I'm sure then the city would be determined to find a way to get those 25,000 vacant units occupied with renters.

James J. Cassiol
San Francisco

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Bush's high voltage connections

Funny thing happened on the way to President Bush's ascendancy into the White House—an energy shortage. Funny thing that he, his vice president, and at least nine Cabinet members and agency officials are tied to energy producing interests. Happenstance?

Denise D'Anne
 San Francisco

Beautiful hunks

I read the article about the Mechanics Monument ["Nude, well-muscled and hard-working," May 24]. I have admired those hunks of bronze for the past two years eating my lunch and had no idea what a history the statues had. I would have thought the city might have done more to celebrate the 100 years of this civic masterpiece. At least the B.A.R. cared to pay tribute with a terrific and well-written article. A fascinating look into our own past. I would love to have met a couple of those models back then.

Jerry Dennis
 San Francisco

Tilden's work

I enjoyed reading the article about Douglas Tilden ["Nude, well-muscled and hard-working," May 24]. This great artist is long overdue for recognition.

It was Tilden's desire to make San Francisco on par with the great European cities in respect to outdoor art. Although he married and fathered two children, he divorced in 1926 and stepped out of public view.

Many of Tilden's statues show images of robust young men engaged in some athletic activity. For a time, this was explained as indicative of Tilden's fondness for sports. However, others have suggested it was indicative of his fondness for sportsmen. His work is undeniably homoerotic. Consider "The Football Players," which shows one man gently tending another man's injured body or the "Bear Hunter," which shows a semi-nude Indian with a stalwart physique wrestling a grizzly bear. Rumor has it that Tilden had a long-time male lover and if you study his statues, you can find the image of his "friend" represented. Your article didn't suggest this, however.

In 1935 Tilden was found dead in his Berkeley studio of an apparent heart attack. In his death notice, the *San Francisco Examiner* and *San Francisco Chronicle* reported, "Douglas Tilden, sculptor, dead, alone and in poverty." It was a sad end to a man who achieved in his lifetime celebrated status, awarded a bronze medal in Paris in 1900 and made a member of the Societe des Artistes Francais.

Thank you for bringing attention to this man and hopefully next time your readers pass Dolores and Market Street, they'll stop and pause at the Spanish-American War Memorial and reflect on Tilden. When asked to explain this statue, Tilden, who never did regain his speech or hearing, is said to have written on a scratch pad, "War is all confusion and horror. The body dies but the spirit goes on."

Finally, another, more recent, rumor has it that some individuals purchasing a trunk of mysterious contents at an auction some years ago discovered numerous works by this artist. I wonder if anyone remembers this story and, if so, what were the details.

John Holland
 San Francisco

History made in San Francisco

On August 8, 1995, Tyra Hunter died in Washington, D.C. Cause of death? Refusal of medical practitioners to treat her for serious injuries because she was a male to female transsexual.

On January 17, 1999, Robert Eads died in Atlanta, Georgia. Cause of death? Refusal of medical practitioners to treat him for cancer because he was a female to male transsexual.

Every day the San Francisco Board of Supervisors makes decisions that affect thousands of lives. But it is rare for elected officials to have the opportunity to impact the course of history, to define a moment in time which will change how people perceive other human beings. This is one of those times.

The board in late April voted to accept the recommendations of the Health Service Board, including full medical care for transgender employees of the city and county of San Francisco. Much as with domestic partners, it is inevitable other jurisdictions in the United States will eventually follow San Francisco's lead, as will HMOs, insurance carriers, and corporations.

I stand and applaud the nine members of the board who voted for the coverage for their courage, compassion, and display of humanity in making this decision. They have made the mantra "only in San Francisco" a phrase we can all recite with dignity and pride. I thank you, as do hundreds of thousands of other transsexuals worldwide who have been waiting for San Francisco to make history one more time.

Theresa Sparks, Member
 Human Rights Commission
 San Francisco

SFAF's salaries

If I were running for the Board of Supervisors in the 2002 elections, I'd raise a lot of questions about the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's just-released tax return for the period ending June 30, 2000, which shows Executive Director Pat Christen's annual salary has reached a whopping \$214,390. Beginning in July 1999, Pat received a 6.5 percent, or \$13,070, raise. Undoubtedly, it is now much higher; unfortunately, we must wait until May 2002 to discover what her current salary is for July 2000 through June 2001.

Notably, she received the July 1999 raise, even though during a portion of that fiscal year she was on maternity leave. Indeed, part of the justification SFAF used to explain the raise it awarded Lance Henderson, deputy director of finance and administration, was that during Pat's maternity leave, Henderson filled her shoes as acting executive director. During whatever time Christen was on leave across fiscal years, Henderson's salary rose between June 1998 and June 2000 by a hefty \$21,449 due to his "acting" duties. In the four-year period leading to June 2000, it rose an average of \$7,800 annually, for a princely \$31,269 total. He now makes \$160,010 annually. We are not told why he didn't receive a pay cut once Pat returned to work. You remember, salaries that go up never come down.

The IRS requires nonprofits to list salaries of the five highest paid employees, in addition to the executive director. Joining Henderson, four other SFAF employees each make in excess of \$130K as of June 2000: Regina Aragon, director of public policy (\$130,449); David Taylor, director of human resources (\$145,971); Jane Breyer, director of development (\$146,212); and Rene Durazzo, director of programs (\$143,862). Durazzo it seems, fared as well as our friend Henderson: Durazzo's salary climbed \$31,037 in that four-year period. Taking the cake since 1997, however, is Christen's increase of \$37,648 (her four-year raise being only slightly less than my entire salary, but don't tell the mayor, knowing he was recently quoted in the media as saying anyone making less than \$50,000 a year has no business trying to live in our city; I'd hate it if he shamed me out of the city). One almost hears her whistling "let them eat cake," when she's not busy laughing all the way to the bank.

Because the IRS requires listing only the top five, SFAF's tax return plays musical chairs (er, employees) year to year, with various names appearing one year then disappearing the next, as they're replaced by someone higher paid, making it difficult to track annual raises for those dropping off the list. As well, it's unclear just how many employees currently make in excess of \$100,000 annually, nor is SFAF—recalcitrant to the bone—likely to provide such an accounting to the public it serves.

These six individuals represent 5 percent of SFAF's total 109 employees as of June 2000, yet they received 14 percent (\$940,894) of the \$6,624,706 SFAF spent on salaries that FY. Since we are not told how many additional employees make in excess of, say, \$75,000 let alone \$100,000, annually, it's impossible to determine the percentage that top management fat-cats consume of the salary "cake," nor, conversely, the percentage of SFAF employees who barely earn a living wage.

Patrick Monette-Shaw
 San Francisco

States' rights argument needed

Now that we've lost a unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decision on medical marijuana, we need to think seriously about what we did wrong.

Remarkably enough, the court decided no important issues. Why? Because our lawyers virtually omitted states' rights (and all other constitutional questions) from their arguments, instead betting everything on statutory interpretation—i.e., what Congress intended to do, as distinct from what Congress has a right to do. As a result, all the court decided was whether Congress intended to allow a "necessity" exemption, because that's all the court was asked to decide.

In footnote seven of the court's ruling, Justice Clarence Thomas emphasized that the case did not present any constitutional issues, then gave an example: "whether the Controlled Substance Act exceeds Congress' power under the Commerce Clause."

In other cases (i.e., his concurrence in *U.S. v. Lopez*, 1995, 514 U.S. 549), Thomas has argued that Congress' jurisdiction over interstate commerce does not include local commerce, so it's fair to say his note was his way of hinting that states' rights over the local practice of medicine is the issue he thinks we should be arguing.

By neglecting all constitutional arguments, we lost unanimously. By arguing states' rights (among other constitutional issues), we'd at least get Thomas's support, and very likely win the case, since he usually commands a majority on Commerce Clause questions.

So what have we been waiting for?

Pebbles Trippett
 Albion, California

Bush rediscovers California; now what?

by Wayne Friday

During the presidential campaign then-Texas Governor **George W. Bush** visited California 16 times, promising the state's voters almost everything, spending millions of dollars, visiting schools from Los Angeles to the Oregon border, breaking into Spanish for Latino groups from San Diego to the Central Valley. He loved the place, even at times comparing the Golden State to the Lone Star State.

Then came November 7, when **Al Gore** swept California in a landslide, winning by a 1.3 million vote plurality. Dubya quickly forgot that California even existed. Bush has visited 28 states since becoming president in January and finally, almost six months after the U.S. Supreme Court gave him the White House, Bush discovered that California exists after all.

Even many state Republicans felt it was so obvious that Bush was ignoring the state in which he was badly beaten that he finally had to give in and so, he came to California this week.

Bush arrived in Los Angeles Monday evening, and reportedly met with some state Republicans for an update on the current political climate and the energy crisis. On Tuesday he visited the Marine Corps base at Camp Pendleton where he touted his plans to save power by ordering a reduction of electricity use at military bases. Later in the day, Bush addressed the Los Angeles World Affairs Council, moderated an "Energy Efficiency Technology" roundtable, and then held a high-profile, long-awaited meeting with Governor **Gray Davis**, a session that some say amounted to the domestic equivalent of a peace summit.

Davis reportedly pressed Bush hard for caps on wholesale electricity prices, something the Bush administration insists would only worsen the state's power crisis, to say nothing of how hard the plan would hit the wallets of the oil industry leaders from Texas who provide California with much of its electricity. Indeed, though **Karen Hughes**, one of Bush's top advisers, said Bush listened to Davis's argument in support of price controls, such controls are not likely to happen since Bush feels "strongly" that price caps would discourage investment in new power plants.

As to how the much-anticipated Bush-Davis meeting went, we know as we go to press that both sides likely scored some political points, if little more. According to some state GOP House members, Bush realized that he had to visit the state if for no other reason than to put in some long overdue face-time, otherwise Republicans feared that Davis would probably soon show up brandishing a milk carton with Bush's face plastered on it.

There are other things besides energy, incidentally, that California wants from the Bush White House—an exemption from a rule that could increase gasoline prices in the state, for example. But it

was energy that was on the minds of the Texas oil millionaire-turned-White House occupant and the California governor who is watching his own polls plummet as the state likely faces a summer of rolling power blackouts, and neither of the two seemed willing to budge as each dug in their political heels.

As Assembly Speaker **Bob Hertzberg** (D-Sherman Oaks) put it this week, "even if the Bush-Davis meeting Tuesday produced no tangible results, it will be an opportunity to tone down the rhetoric; you can't engage in a war with the president because there are too many issues in which the state needs federal aid."

California is clearly ground zero in the Democratic-Republican battle for public opinion over energy, and Bush apparently finally recognized he could no longer ignore the state, particularly in view of the fact that a recent

Field Poll shows 54 percent of Californians are dissatisfied with the White House's handling of the energy crisis while only 38 percent are unhappy with Davis's job on energy. With Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, now one of the Senate's most powerful members, saying last week that Bush's recently released energy plan was little more than "a dream come true" for "Big Oil," and with Davis attacking Bush for "helping the energy companies in Texas who are ripping California off," and four California House members calling for Bush to switch course immediately and impose caps on runaway wholesale electricity prices, the ball is now in Bush's court.

Will he help California? It remains to be seen; no promises, to be sure, but Hughes left us with this message: "President Bush felt very strongly that this was a good time to visit California because he knows that it is going to be a difficult summer for many of its citizens," referring, apparently, to more rolling blackouts during hot summer weather. As one observer put it, however, "I fear Bush came out here only to give us some long overdue lip service—the guy was born a millionaire, and I doubt very seriously he's ever seen a utility bill."

California is waiting for some action. Mr. Bush, it's your turn now.

Politics and people

Supervisor **Mark Leno** will officially kick off his campaign for the 13th Assembly District nomination this Saturday, June 2, at noon at the Plumbers' Union Hall, 1621 Market Street; admission free and all are welcome. Leno will be seeking the Assembly seat being vacated by termed-out incumbent Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, a candidate for a seat on the state Board of Equalization next March.

Incidentally, Supervisor **Leland Yee**, running for the Democratic Assembly nomination in the city's other seat, the 12th District, announced that he has been endorsed by that district's termed-out incumbent, Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley**, and state Senator **John Burton** in the March 2002

primary.

And, in an interview with the *San Jose Mercury News*, District Attorney **Terence Hallinan** said he "probably" will run for S.F. mayor when term limits force Mayor **Willie Brown** out in 2004. Speaking about the infamous headline-grabbing dog mauling case, Hallinan says "all you have to do is say 'the dog case' and everybody in America, if not the whole world, knows what you're talking about; to me it's just another case." Sure, Terence, if this case doesn't go the right way for your office, you can forget all about "probably" running for mayor.

Mayor Brown, apparently still a bit unhappy at losing all those allies on the Board of Supervisors in last December's runoff election, suggested to the *Sacramento Bee* that he might actually have as much juice in Sacramento these days as he does with the Board of Supes. The mayor, a member of the Public Employment Retirement System Board, travels to the capital for a board meeting monthly and told a reporter there that "I have only one vote on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors these days; on the PERS board, I'm the swing vote." (Who could that "one" member be of whom Brown is speaking?)

When the U.S. Senate returns to Washington this Tuesday from its Memorial Day recess, the new shift in control to the Democrats means that the power of California Senators **Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer** will be greatly enhanced; both are already ranking Democrats on two subcommittees each.

When Vermont Senator **James Jeffords** switched his party affiliation last week from Republican to independent (aligning himself with Senate Democrats) the ideological balance in the U.S. Senate wasn't changed, but the balance of power in the nation's capital certainly was—the price that Bush paid for quickly swinging his political agenda to the far right after a two-year campaign posing as a moderate, "compassionate conservative."

Back in Sacramento, the election of new Assemblywoman **Judy Chu** (D-Monterey Park) in a special election last week now has Asian Americans holding four Assembly seats, an all-time high. Chu won her seat in the 49th District, an historically Latino district that includes East Los Angeles where Latino voters outnumber Asian Americans 44 percent to 25 percent. People of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry are now California's fastest-growing group, making up nearly 13 percent of the state's population. The new assemblywoman said that because Asian Americans are diverse and spread throughout California, candidates must build coalitions with other groups to win elections. Latinos have shown the way, however, winning in districts in which they were minorities and increasing their current numbers in the Legislature to 26 members.

Local political gossip: All is apparently not well in Supervisor **Chris Daly**'s District 6; one of my Tenderloin political sources, namely **Fred "Kitty" Hobson** of the District 6 Democrats, tells me that Daly is "quickly burning his political bridges" in the district

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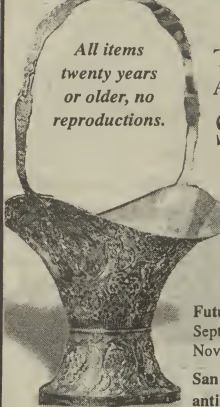
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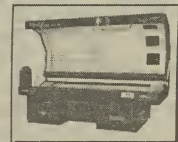
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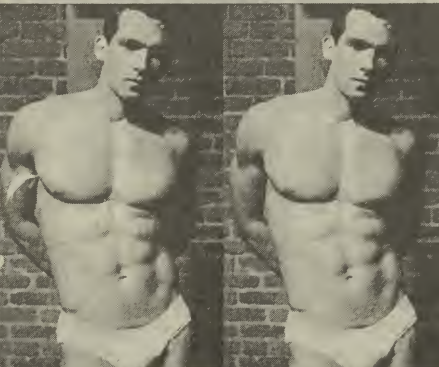
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C'mon, get happy

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

The transgendered movement is gaining visibility, and this scares a lot of people. Some of those people might even be transgendered.

I was in an online discussion with an older transsexual a couple weeks ago, and discovered one of the core differences between some of us in the community. She was complaining about how visible and active some transgendered people have become, and how disturbed she was by all this. She explained that, to her, transsexuality is all about seeking to be normal.

That may well be the case, but if the goal of her and others like her was to achieve normalcy, then the goal of those like me must be to attain happiness. And that is a core difference that splits the transgender community.

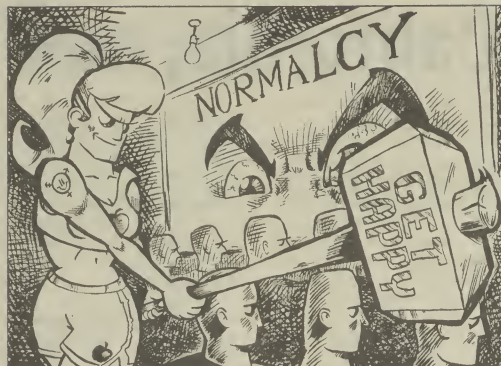
Not that the transgendered are the only ones to go through this. Certainly the recent debate over the use of the word "queer" in LGBT circles echoes some of the same themes. It all seems to revolve around some quest to be seen as "normal."

I suspect the transgender part of that quest was born out of the medical establishment, particularly in the 1960s and 1970s. There are plenty of stories of people being "flunked out" of various university-based gender programs because they did not strive to be the best man or woman they could be.

For some MTFs, not wearing your femme best, not planning to live as a good little housewife – or worse yet – being lesbian-identified would get you a first-class ticket out of these programs. Many would go so far as to not allow you to meet up with other transgendered people: one can only guess at what the concern was with transgendered people getting to know each other and share their stories.

The transsexual woman I mentioned above came out of these programs, and was likely sold dreams of a "normal life." I suspect that she resents those of us who are aiming for a happy life, seeing it as a threat to her fantasies of normalcy. I say this because I know how potent those dreams can be.

In late 1994, I started my transition. It was messy at times, including difficulties with family and friends, and a less-than-stellar



employment record.

One day at a local park, I started to jot down a since-forgotten piece of poetry. I recall that it was little more than a whine set into meter and rhyme. Just walling at the stars over not having my own white picket fence and my own bland suburban housewife life. In short, I craved some form of normalcy. I look back on it and laugh at how naive I seemed.

When I look back on my life to that point, I don't see someone who had lived life as a "normal" male. Indeed, I seemed to bounce

hither and yon, even then seeking my happiness. I never would have fit into that picket fence lifestyle before I transitioned – why did I think I would fit after?

Still, in 1995, not having that little dream of happiness frustrated me to no end. Enough to evoke my poetic muse and let her speak.

It wasn't long until I landed a job at a seedy print shop, and was "just one of the girls up front." I never told my co-workers that I was transgendered. I was frightfully careful to maintain this little subterfuge, and in return I gained the chance to experience life as that "everywoman" I was so seeking. Wonder of wonders, it didn't make me happy.

Having to guard my words, having to keep tabs on every little thing I did, so as to not raise suspicions, was just too much for me to handle. The job was stressful for many other reasons, but having to live what felt like a lie in order to fit in there was high on the list.

It was not long until I left that job for one that allowed me to be the decidedly non-conforming transgendered woman that I am. Part of what makes me happy is

just being myself without having to continually edit out portions of my life. It was a lesson I had to learn, and since then I have tried to remain true to it.

My story is not unique. I just finished reading a transgender autobiography titled *The Woman I Was Not Meant To Be*, by Aleshia Brevard. Brevard had a lengthy career in film, television, and the stage, all the while concealing her transsexuality. She also did all she could to find a man and live the role of the doting housewife. It was only after a string of ill-fated marriages and the wisdom of a few years under her belt that she began to see that the key to her happiness wasn't in conforming to what she was told was "normal," but was in just being herself. She learned to accept and even value her trans past, and in doing so, found happiness.

I cannot help but contrast the person I mentioned at the top of this column with Brevard. The former craves being normal, and sees that as her only way to achieve happiness. The latter has left what she was told was normal, and has found a deeper sense of peace and happiness.

Likewise, Brevard has opted to tell her story, becoming a visible part of the transgendered community. Just the sort of person who might threaten the other person's dreams of normalcy.

Like Brevard, I'll opt for being a happy non-conformist rather than living my life in fear. It just doesn't seem like much of a choice. ▼

Gwen Smith would never be mistaken for a soccer mom. You can find her on the Web at www.gwensmith.com or in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo."

Carnaval in the city



Even with cloudy skies and cool temperatures, exuberance ruled at San Francisco's annual Carnaval Parade Sunday, May 27, in the Mission District. Above, a dancer from the *Academicos da Estrada Real*, one of 35 groups in the parade, prepares to dance along the parade route. A festival was held in Civic Center following the parade.

The hate crimes mirage

by Dale Carpenter

Any law that manages to offend both the Christian Coalition and the criminal defense bar can't be all bad. So it's with some ambivalence that I argue hate crimes laws – like the one just adopted in Texas with the approval of Republican Governor Rick Perry – are an idea whose time has passed.

Although hailed by gay groups as a lifesaver, hate crimes laws don't work. Their only value seems to be that they are a kind of trophy commemorating a small victory in the culture war. But, as longtime sexual outlaws, gays should've learned by now the state has no business passing criminal laws for purely symbolic reasons.

Initially, let's dispense with a couple of bad arguments against hate crimes laws. One common argument is that hate crimes laws – which enhance penalties for crimes directed against people or property because of race or sexual orientation or another specified characteristic – imply that some crime victims are more valuable than others.

That might be true if hate crimes laws were victim-focused – that is, dependent on the status of the victim. But hate crimes laws are perpetrator-focused: they look only at the motives of the criminal defendant. Such laws are one method among many by which the criminal justice system marshals its resources (prosecutorial, penal, etc.) against crime thought to present the gravest social threat. Bias-motivated crimes injure not only a person, they terrorize a community. So it violates no principle of human equality to punish such crimes more severely than we do run-of-the-mill crimes.

A second common argument against hate crimes laws is that they punish thought. If that's true, such laws trespass on the traditional American commitment to freedom of thought and speech. But this charge is, in an obvious way, misplaced.

No person is punished under a hate crimes law for thinking bigoted thoughts. Nor is anyone punished for speaking or writing about such thoughts. It is the

combination of bigoted motivation plus action that results in greater punishment under a hate crimes law.

Is there anything wrong with considering motive in sentencing? There is certainly nothing novel about adjusting punishment up or down based on the reasons why a person commits a crime. We do it all the time, varying sentences depending on whether an act is committed in self-defense, for greed, for spite, and so on.

Sentences are also commonly adjusted because of the degree and extent of the social harm they are thought to cause. The defendant who kills the mother of three young children will typically be punished more harshly – all other things being equal – than the killer of an unmarried person with no friends or living family. Victim-impact evidence can have a dramatic effect on sentencing.

So what's wrong with hate crimes laws? Though they may

not suffer the defects usually attributed to them, they have a more straightforward fault: they fail to deter hate crimes.

Most states have a hate crimes law, many of which have been on the books for more than a decade.

Yet there is no evidence, no study, of which I am aware that these laws have had any discernible effect on the rate of hate crimes. The world is no safer for gay Texans today than it was before this latest legislative "victory."

Perhaps that should not be surprising. As advocates of these laws have long argued, hate crimes spring from a very deep well of loathing and fear. They are frenzied, often marked by "overkill" (like multiple gunshots and dismemberment) not typically seen in other assaults. They are, it seems, beyond deterrence. Moreover, such laws are rarely invoked by prosecutors both because hate crimes are infrequent and because it is hard to prove the requi-

site bias motivation.

So what is the purpose of passing laws specifically targeting hate? The most honest answer to this question comes from Hawaii Governor Ben Cayetano, who recently signed such a law. Cayetano, conceding there is no epidemic of hate crimes in his state, suggested the law is needed because "there's a statement to be made."

The "statement" made by a hate crimes law is, presumably, that gay lives and black lives and Jewish lives are valuable. It is a symbolic gesture from the state to the populace that – whatever messages of disapproval the state has sent in the past about these groups – violence against them will not now be tolerated. That statement itself is unobjectionable.

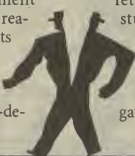
The problem is that it is treacherous business for the state to use its criminal laws to make purely symbolic statements. Gays have long been subjected to criminal sodomy laws that are, like hate crimes laws, rarely enforced and unlikely to reduce the incidence of

the very activity they purport to target.

Instead, sodomy laws are often supported because of the *symbolic statement* they make in defense of traditional sexual morality. That is, in fact, the precise ground on which then-Governor Bush defended Texas' sodomy law while he was running for president.

It would be far better for us to champion the judicious use of criminal laws, reserving them only for real social problems that law will have some chance to alleviate. No one can doubt that hate crimes are a social problem. But there is considerable doubt, after more than a decade of experience, that hate crimes laws will do anything constructive about that problem. Pursuing them is chasing a mirage. ▼

Dale Carpenter, a law professor, is the winner of three Vice Versa awards for excellence in gay writing. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.



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◀ page 9

and "we are already looking to other possible candidates" in next year's election, mentioning as possible candidates Kelly Cullen, the respected Franciscan brother at St. Boniface, also the executive director at the Tenderloin Neighborhood Development Corporation, as well as Robin Levitt, a member of the Democratic County Central Committee.

And the *San Francisco Examiner* couldn't be more on the point with their Sunday editorial about the screwed-up mess at the Department of Elections; will the bureaucrats down there ever get that department cleaned up?

My "quote of the week" comes from former East Bay GOP Congressman Bill Baker on Vermont U.S. Senator Jeffords's decision to leave the Republican Party. Baker: "We can now put away the Preparation H; it's like losing a hemorrhoid." (This coming, incidentally, from a man who couldn't himself get re-elected to his House seat.)

And how was your week? ▼

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Queeny bopper

by Jane Warner

18th and Castro, May 23, 12:30 a.m.: Walking out of Walgreens, a man observed a group of young men standing on the corner verbally arguing and yelling obscenities. Disturbed by the language, the man asked the group to quiet down. Angry, one of the young men kicked over a metal news rack and responded, "Do you want to die mother-fucker?" He then picked up a blue milk crate and threw it at the man's head, barely missing. The group took off running and responding police found them loitering in Harvey Milk Plaza. The 23-year-old suspect was arrested for aggravated assault and booked at Mission Station. The suspect was also questioned about an assault

on Collingwood Street the night before which left a man in serious condition. He was not charged in that attack.

Kid nap

Harvey Milk Plaza, May 25, 6 a.m.: A police officer observed a man lying on the ground in Harvey Milk Plaza and approached him to see if he was okay. The man looked up with one eye and responded, "Why don't you leave me the fuck alone, you stupid nigger cop?" The officer informed the man that it was illegal to sleep in the plaza and asked him to vacate. The man angrily got up and grabbed a stack of newspapers and bag of clothes, then spread the clothes from the bag across the steps of the plaza. Another man approached the officer and informed him that the mess consisted of his

clothes that were stolen the night before. The 18-year-old suspect was placed under arrest and booked for possession of stolen property.

Needing dough

Reliance Market, 699 Castro, May 25, 6:30 p.m.: A man walked into the corner store and picked out a bottle of beer from the cooler and brought it to the counter. The owner rang up the purchase, the cash register drawer opened, and the man suddenly grabbed the register and swung it toward himself. The owner grabbed the register back and a struggle ensued. The suspect was able to pull the till and he took \$300 in cash and \$150 in food stamps. The thief, described as African American, 6 feet tall, 250 pounds, with a scar under his left eye, and wearing black pants and a black sweater, ran out of the store and drove away in a newer red Toyota Camry. Responding police were unable to find him. ▼

Carmichael's sentencing set for next month

by Cynthia Laird

Brian Patrick Carmichael, the openly gay, HIV-positive advocate for state prisoners, faces sentencing next month that could see him jailed for over 20 years for a third strike conviction of battery on a peace officer.

Carmichael has been struggling to fight his conviction in Santa Clara County Superior Court, but Judge Alden E. Danner is expected to pass judgment and sentencing on Friday, June 29. During court appearances over the last several weeks, Carmichael has attempted to get the judge to reduce the felony conviction to a misdemeanor, which Danner can do, but only at the time of sentencing. Danner has not given an indication of how he might proceed, though during Carmichael's last court appearance on May 18, he alluded to the many letters he has received on behalf of Carmichael.

The case against Carmichael stems from an incident that occurred at San Jose International Airport last September as Carmichael stepped off an airplane. Police were waiting at the airport to talk to Carmichael, who while on the airplane in Dallas, got into an argument with a passenger who was occupying a

seat Carmichael had been told was reserved for his ill brother. During a scuffle after Carmichael got off the plane, he fell on a police officer, who reported that he suffered an injury as a result.

The nature of the officer's injury, however, is open to interpretation, and Carmichael has steadfastly denied that the officer suffered an injury as a result of the scuffle. Carmichael has been in the Santa Clara County jail since the incident last September.

Carmichael, who has represented himself in several court hearings since firing his public defender after Danner issued a guilty verdict in January (there was no jury trial), told the judge earlier this month that he would now like the assistance of a court-appointed attorney. Danner, however, denied the request.

Carmichael's efforts to hire private counsel have been unsuccessful.

Danner did continue the sentencing to June 29, in an effort to give Carmichael time to prepare what's known as a Romero motion for those facing third strike sentences.

While Carmichael argued that the prosecution has failed to turn over some of the evidence — notably police tapes — Assistant District Attorney David Soares told the judge that according to his investigation, the San Jose Police

Department had provided all police tapes. Carmichael has argued that the tapes show the officer who was allegedly injured had, in fact returned to the station after Carmichael was taken to Valley Medical Center and it was only after police at the hospital overheard comments about Carmichael's HIV status that the officer went to the hospital.

Soares previously told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Carmichael's case is in no way about AIDS or AIDS-phobia.

At the May 18 hearing, Carmichael disagreed, and asked how his conduct at San Jose International Airport was battery or why anything about his HIV status was even allowed into the trial. "My conversation with the doctor at Valley Medical Center was privileged," Carmichael told the judge. "Because the D.A. brought in all this stuff about HIV, I'm being forced to respond to it. What injury did the officer suffer?"

"I do not understand how what I did was a crime," Carmichael said. "I'm completely baffled." ▼

Carmichael's sentencing is set for 1:30 p.m. in Department 40 at the Santa Clara County Hall of Justice, 190/200 West Hedding Street, in San Jose.

Castro youth suspects still at large

by Katie Szymanski

There have been no arrests in last week's Castro attack that left a gay man in a coma with critical head injuries, according to sources at the San Francisco Police Department. Although a female suspect was detained, she has since been released without charges, according to sources, and three suspects remain at large. All four suspects involved in the beating are believed to be young adults

with some connection to the queer youth services offered in the neighborhood.

The assault took place in the vicinity of 18th and Collingwood on the evening of Tuesday, May 22. Witnesses said that the victim was trying to move his car from a parking space but was blocked by the group of kids, who refused to move. The victim honked, and the kids allegedly pounded on the hood of his car. The victim exited his car to confront the group and was jumped. Several 911 calls re-

ported that four young people between the ages of 17 and 20 were standing over the victim kicking and punching him repeatedly. There was so much blood at the scene, according to the police log, that the fire department was called to wash down the pavement.

Sources have reported that the victim, a 50-year old man from Healdsburg, remains at San Francisco General Hospital, and that his family has flown in from out of state to be with him. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Lorri Jean takes over at NGLTF

by Bob Roehr

Lorri L. Jean is taking on the job of revitalizing the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force as its executive director. Many people feel that the venerable institution has stagnated over the last decade while new organizations have come along and others have grown tremendously.

Jean, 44, said that her return to activism is a combination of desire, timing, and "maybe a little bit of fate." The start-up company she was involved with essentially was bought about the time Elizabeth Toledo announced her resignation as executive director. And Jean was "feeling a little bit antsy about being out of the mix."

"I really have missed working full time on behalf of our community. I think that I have missed it more acutely since G.W. [Bush] got elected and I have felt like there is a lot more need for people to be focused on the advancement of our cause in this environment. I've also felt, I've yearned for a different kind of a voice than what I've been hearing. I've been hearing a lot of silence in response to G.W."

Somewhat surprisingly, Jean will not move to Washington, D.C., where NGLTF is based, but will work out of a new Los Angeles office that is scheduled to open this fall. She will be the first executive director since the agency was formed in 1973 who will not work out of Washington.

The group will continue to lobby in Washington, but Jean told the *Los Angeles Times* last week, "Given the election of George W., it's very unlikely that anything good for our movement will happen inside the Beltway these days."

Just days after the May 22 *Times* article, control of the U.S. Senate shifted to the Democrats, in a major blow to the Bush administration.

Jean plans to commute regularly to the task force office in Washington, its Policy Institute in New York City, and other community obligations throughout the country. "L.A. is my home now, I really love it there," she said, and her partner, Gina M. Calvelli, has professional ties as a partner in an L.A. law firm. Jean has hired Darrel Cummings, her deputy at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, to open the L.A. office.

Jean cut her teeth as an activist while a student at the Georgetown University Law Center. She was the lead plaintiff in a sexual orientation discrimination lawsuit against the university, which claimed a religious exemption from the city's gay-inclusive human rights act. Jean was on the winning side, a pattern she strives to maintain.

She served as president of the Gay and Lesbian Activists Alliance (1986-1988) in Washington, D.C., while working as an attorney with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the folks who respond with aid when floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, and other disasters hit. It didn't take much persuading to get her to move to San Francisco in 1990 to head up the agency's large regional office.

Activism drew her to Los Angeles in 1993 to take charge of the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center, then an \$8 million a year operation. "When I arrived, almost 95 percent of their budget was government [contracts and grants]. I thought that was a problem," she said. "They were raising less than a million dollars in private dollars. When I left [six years later in February 1999], we were raising about \$10 million annually in private dollars [and the total budget had grown to \$32 million]. I also left them with a \$10 million endowment."

She also left a legacy of programs from housing for gay and lesbian runaways, to a HMO/managed care practice operating at three state-of-the-art facilities, to the National Association of LGBT Community Centers, which she co-founded.

The L.A. Center was "the 'big dog,' just dramatically overshadowing smaller groups," she said. It led to envy and distrust. Jean set out to overcome those barriers through meaningful collaboration where all of the participants received recognition. It's an approach she brings to NGLTF.

NGLTF has been floundering for much of the last decade with turmoil at the top, which reflects decisions made by the board of directors. Six executive directors have come and gone, often with gaps and people serving on an acting basis between those appointments. Where once NGLTF was roughly comparable in size, budget, and membership with the Human Rights Campaign, HRC has grown to be far larger by every measure. The task force's annual budget has



Lorri Jean

oscillated between \$2-4 million dollars for most of that time.

"Solidify the infrastructure ... particularly in the fundraising area" is one of Jean's priorities.

To raise that money, "not only do you have to be good at it, you have to have something good to sell." She believes, "One of the task force's greatest problems is that its work has been way too well kept secret. That is something that I intend to fix."

"I'm really looking forward to helping the task force become more visible as a really unapologetic voice of what rights our community ought to have," she said. "We have the ability to do some of that since our primary focus is not lobbying on Capitol Hill and having to create and preserve relationships that may require a different kind of diplomatic finesse and compromise."

"We need to adopt a new approach as a movement, a zero tolerance approach to bigotry. Zero tolerance of politicians who are not willing to support our full and complete equality in all aspects of our society," Jean said, echoing her speech a year ago at the Millennium March on Washington. That includes support for gay marriage, a standard that sets her at odds with some political pragmatists in other organizations as well as some ideologues on the left.

"I really bemoan the loss in our community of organizations like ACT UP and Queer Nation," she said. "They provided the sort of extreme continuum, in the view of mainstream politicians, so it made the rest of us sound so much more reasonable. And without them, I think that it has slowed our progress."

She added, "I think that people are hungry to support things that they think are really going to make a difference. And more and more as we live under the administration of George W., people are going to see that we are losing some ground. I think that some of the complacency that has existed over the last eight years is going to change. So I'm really optimistic." ▼

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Beginning with small article, life for gays was forever changed

analysis by Bob Roehr

It began with just a small article, a cluster of gay men in Los Angeles dead or dying of Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia (PCP), an unusual lung infection. The date was June 5, 1981, the journal was *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, an obscure publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention read primarily by public health officials.

Then four weeks later *MMWR* printed news of 26 young gay men in New York and California diagnosed with Kaposi's sarcoma (KS), a rare form of cancer heretofore seen primarily in elderly men of Jewish and Mediterranean extraction. The trickle of events became a flood of what would be called HIV/AIDS.

It was not the start of the HIV epidemic — that surely began years and likely decades earlier — but it did mark the beginning of our recognition of that pestilence.

The statistics over the last 20 years numb one beyond comprehension, be it nearly a million Americans estimated to be infected with HIV, the 40,000 who still become infected each year, or the 440,000 who have died of the disease.

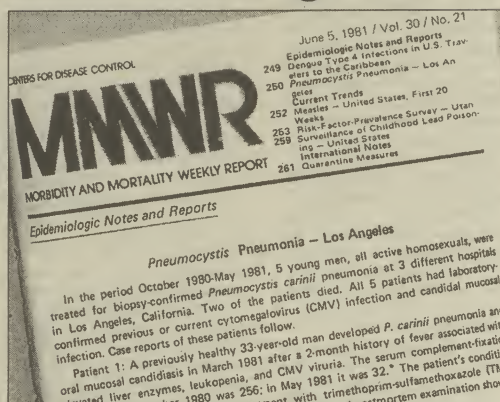
Who can understand the meaning of 36 million people throughout the world carrying the virus? Or that the rate of infection continues to explode throughout much of the world. It is only when people realize that a 15-year-old in South Africa has a 50-50 chance of dying of AIDS before the age of 30 that the horror begins to take on a human scale.

The American perception of AIDS has gone through a cycle of meanings over the last two decades. First came fear of the unknown, a terror that stalked the gay community and fueled their pariah status among the broader public.

Many gay men reacted with denial, and then as more became known of the mysterious killer, by adopting safer sex practices that reduced the risk of exposure. They cared for ill friends and lovers, first through informal networks of support, soon with an unprecedented blossoming of organizations that sprang from the community. Those organizations not only changed the gay community, they also changed the way that biomedical research is conducted, how drugs are approved, and the way that medicine is practiced.

Rising from death beds

Protease inhibitors, introduced in the mid-1990s, slowed the terror, though they did not — and still do not — work for all. People rose from their skeletal death beds, gaunt flesh plumped to fullness in what came to be called the Lazarus effect. The so-called miracle drugs first brought expectations that AIDS might be vanquished, and then a more reasonable hope that perhaps HIV could

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention's June 5, 1981 *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* mentioned the cases of PCP among gay men in Los Angeles.

become a chronic, manageable disease.

Protease inhibitors brought a respite, a lull of normalization, if one considers it "normal" to take a dozen or more pills a day on a rigorous time clock paced around one's meals.

Then there are the side effects; the immediate ones such as diarrhea and rash, and the longer-term ones that scientists still know so little about. Like fat that seems to migrate, creating sunken pockets and lumpy masses, a disfiguring new stigma marking those whose bodies are fighting the virus. And imbalanced blood chemistry that greatly heightens the risk of diabetes, high cholesterol, heart attack, and a liver under continuous pharmaceutical assault.

But the number of those dying from AIDS continued to fall every year since protease inhibitors were introduced. So this must be better, things were getting back to "normal," according to many. The American public seems to believe that, as reflected in polling data released on May 25 by the Kaiser Family Foundation. The proportion of Americans who call AIDS the nation's top health problem has declined from 44 percent in 1995 to 26 percent today, second to cancer.

Still, 66 percent believe that the federal government is not doing enough to fight the epidemic. Only 5 percent say that spending is too high, while 25 percent say it is "about right" and 55 percent call for more money. Support is near universal for sex education in high school that includes HIV prevention (97 percent) and information about condoms (90 percent).

Transforming

But it appears that the respite the developing world has purchased with expensive drugs is starting to fade. Several factors suggest that AIDS is transitioning into a new phase.

The number of AIDS deaths has stopped declining; in fact it has begun to rise again. New York City reported a 2 percent increase

in 1999. Last year Washington state reported a 6 percent increase in the number of AIDS cases, another sign that drugs are failing.

Public health officials are concerned by a decline in safer sex practices as measured by survey data. That is particularly true among the young. Those under the age of 25 constitute half of all new infections, and are of a generation who have always known AIDS.

That very familiarity has reduced its sting, while the success of new therapies has created the illusion that the disease is easily managed. The specter of gaunt shuffling victims who so unsettled people a decade ago that many in the community became more prudent in their sexual escapades has been replaced with false images of mountain climbing and triathletes competing because of their combination therapies in drug company ads for HIV medications.

STDs on the rise

Sexually transmitted diseases are on the upswing. There have been small outbreaks of syphilis in Seattle, Los Angeles, and San Francisco, while in New York the caseload for the first quarter of this year was double that of the previous two years, primarily among gay men in Manhattan.

STDs are a marker of unsafe sexual activity that increases exposure to HIV. They also facilitate the transmission of and vulnerability to HIV. Still, it is unclear if the higher levels of STDs represent a broad trend or a relatively small circle of "barebackers" who are passing the infections back and forth among themselves.

The domestic challenge, according to officials, is to formulate new prevention interventions that greatly reduce the estimated 40,000 HIV infections that occur every year; develop new therapies that are more effective, less toxic, easier to use, and more affordable; and to provide access to medical care and support for those who need it.

The international challenge is even greater. In the United States, 1 in 300 people are infected with HIV. In much of sub-Saharan Africa the ratio is 1 in 5, and in some villages as high as 1 in 2 women of childbearing age. Even

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From the grove to the sidewalks, community will mark AIDS at 20

by Cynthia Laird

It started as a mention in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* issued on June 5, 1981 – gay men in Los Angeles were being treated for *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia, a rare lung infection. Since then, the gay community in particular has expended enormous amounts of money, time, and grief battling what is now known as AIDS.

Starting this Sunday, June 3, and continuing through Tuesday, June 5, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community in San Francisco will mark 20 years of fighting AIDS. What follows is a roundup of events taking place; all are open to the public.

'Die-in' demo

As a graphic representation of the nearly 20,000 San Franciscans who have died of AIDS-related complications since the beginning of the epidemic, hundreds of local residents will draw outlines of each other's bodies on sidewalks and streets in the heart of the Castro District and throughout the city this Sunday, June 3, starting at 11 a.m.

The demonstration, called a "die-in" by organizers at the Stop AIDS Project, will take place at 18th and Castro streets; many of the deaths caused as a result of AIDS have occurred among the city's gay and bisexual men who live and gather in that neighborhood. The event is free to the public.

"There's so much going on downtown, we felt it important to do something in the part of the city hit hardest by the epidemic, as well as a renewal to reverse the number of infections going up," Steve Gibson, Stop AIDS Project program director, told the *Bay Area Reporter*.



Stop AIDS' Steven Gibson

Gibson said he intends for the demonstration to draw attention to the increasing rates of HIV infection in San Francisco, especially among African American, Caucasian, and Latino gay and bisexual men. Gibson said he wants the general public to be aware that the disease is spreading and taking lives with it. He also wants members of the LGBT community to recommit themselves to supporting those who are already infected.

"I can remember when Star Pharmacy at 18th and Castro used to have photos in their window of the 'gay cancer' so men could check themselves for sores," Gibson said. "In this year of looking back over the last 20 years of the epidemic, we wanted to do something here in the neighborhood where so many lost their lives."

Jed Herman, volunteer manager at Stop AIDS, said that if there are going to be fewer deaths related to HIV/AIDS in the next 20 years, it is up to the community to make the difference.

"The answer lies in our community," Herman said. "It's up to us to decide the future of the epidemic."

Stop AIDS staff and volunteers will be giving chalk to people who want to join in the die-in, and hope that outlines will be drawn throughout the Castro and San Francisco. Staff members also encouraged allies throughout the Bay Area to buy chalk and join them from wherever they are to bring back AIDS to the nation's consciousness.

For more information, call (415) 575-0150.

AIDS grove ceremony

Also on Sunday, June 3, the National AIDS Memorial Grove in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park will mark the 20th year of AIDS with a ceremony beginning at 5:30 p.m. The service of remembrance will include a performance by the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus.

Muni will provide some extra service for those in the Castro wishing to attend the service at the grove. A bus will leave near Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco at about 4:30 p.m. to get people to the grove and will bring them back to MCC-SF. People can also take the N-Judah and 33 lines.

Open air service

After the service at the grove, people are welcome to head over to Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street, for the 7 p.m. service Sunday, June 3. Church staff plan to transform the city block of Eureka Street between 18th and 19th streets into an open air sanctuary for a special evening service honoring health care workers who have cared for people with AIDS in hospitals, nursing homes and hospices, as well as those who serve as home care workers.

"For 20 years, health care workers have reached out to wrap



MCC-SF's Rev. Penny Nixon

their arms of compassion, comfort, and care around those we love," said the Reverend Penny Nixon, MCC-SF pastor. "It is now our turn to wrap our collective arms around these workers and tell them we care as they have cared. These workers are true heroes in the fight against AIDS and thanking them is, we believe, most appropriate."

The Health Care Workers' Union Local 250 is helping get the word out about the service.

Quilt display

On Monday, June 4, the Names Project will display portions of the AIDS Memorial Quilt in City Hall, with a formal ceremony at noon in the Rotunda, and the reading of names of those who have died of AIDS. The reading of names will continue until midnight.

June 5 events

Tuesday, June 5 will see the reading of names continue in City Hall beginning at 8 a.m. At noon, Mayor Willie Brown will join many long-term survivors, caregivers, and volunteers in acknowledging the 20th anniversary of AIDS and recommitting to end the epidemic.

MCC-SF will be open on Tuesday starting at 6 a.m. for remembering and honoring people with AIDS. Throughout the day, the altar will become the centerpiece for an historical archive. As the church opens, the altar will be cleared so that cards, statements, mementos, and other personal remembrances may be placed to remember the impact of AIDS.

At 6 p.m. members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society of Northern California will collect and carefully package everything on the altar. The items will then be preserved as an archive to show how San Franciscans chose to mark 20 years of AIDS in their lives.

"Creation of an historical archive documenting this day is extremely important," Nixon said. She also emphasized the concern for those who continue to live with AIDS. "June 5, 2001 is a day to renew our commitment to all people diagnosed with AIDS who are winning the fight to stay alive."

For more information on MCC-SF's activities, call (415) 863-4434. ▼

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Mitch Katz

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itive men, you would eliminate at least 95 percent of the seroconversions among men who have sex with men [MSMs], everything else being equal."

By 1985, the HIV antibody test had been developed and was being offered in San Francisco via the AIDS Health Project.

"It was then," noted Katz, "that people learned this amazing fact—that half of gay men in San Francisco living in the neighborhoods with the largest populations of gay men were infected. This was astounding."

The professional is public is personal

And so were the consequences. Katz turned personal.

"Almost all our friends and colleagues who found out they were infected, in the mid-1980s, got sick in the early 1990s. Certainly for me that was the worst time."

"Those years in the late 1980s and early 1990s were absolutely miserable, and I actually feel that, as a person, putting aside everything else, that time was so hard for me, that there was a part of me that closed down. There was so much sadness, so many people dying, what was strange for me, looking back on the closed-down part, is I really didn't get closed down in the sense that I was unable to experience the sadness. It was that I was unable to really experience any joy. And I sort of feel like, it's only recently that my own ability to enjoy life has returned."

In what way, he was asked, has the personal sadness affected Katz's public life?

"I never saw being a doctor and a public health official as separate. With me, it was one life, always... a lot of people in San Francisco cared and were working in public health and doing great things around HIV, I had to note that I was one of the few openly gay men during that time. There were a few others, [UCSF physician] Donald Abrams, but most of the people were straight doctors. You know, that's fine with me, you don't have to be gay or anything to understand the illness."

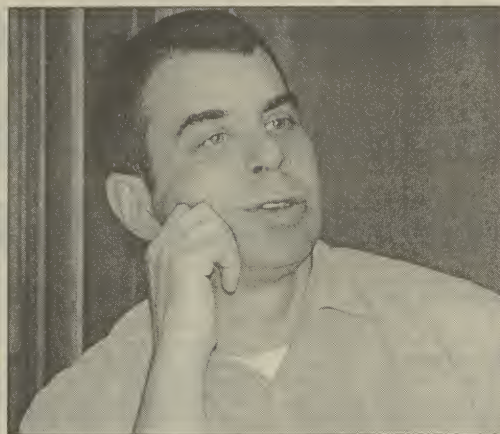
"But the fundamental difference was that all of my friends were sick. And dying. And their friends [of straight doctors] were not. And they were themselves not at risk, while I felt myself very much to be at risk."

"So in those times I was making the same kinds of tradeoffs in my personal sexual life as everybody else was... I remember sort of profoundly feeling that if I became infected, or if I was infected, that I would die of AIDS, which is very different from now."

"When the people closest to me were sick, or dying, my clinical practice was people who were sick and dying, my public health work was trying to come up with a coherent public health response to this unrelenting epidemic, which wasn't really very responsive in some ways to public health."

Community response

There was a crucial element that made a difference. Katz said, "The success of the HIV prevention model was very much a community response, and I don't think that public health [DPH] deserves too much credit. It was



Dr. Mitchell Katz: "The success of the HIV prevention model was very much a community response..."

the community itself, people realized there was something awful going on, people started community-based agencies, they told each other to be careful about unsafe sex."

The DPH helped by feeding the data. But, Katz continued, "I really feel, if anything, that public health trailed the community. And the other success people talked about was the humanity in which gay men and lesbians responded to their own being sick. I think that's something for people to feel proud of, that the community itself said, 'We're a community that this affects, and we're going to take care of our own.'"

The relations between gay men and lesbians have often been close, often discordant, he said, but those years brought them together.

"You know, the women in our community, I think, were some of the hardest working, because in general they were healthy... it was in some ways the closest time in San Francisco."

Katz's voice went flat, and slowed.

"By the early 1990s, there was so much fatigue, some of the greatest leaders were dead. I called a close friend of mine who had never discussed his health with me, to find out that he was on leave from his job, and subsequently he died."

"Many people didn't want to talk about it, didn't want people to know they were sick, they just... you know... died. It was the years that I used to have conversations all the time with my own patients about how... how they could essentially kill themselves, when the time came..."

"It was horrible. It was horrible."

Turning point: 1992

Mostly, Katz said, "1992 was the peak of AIDS deaths because it was the peak of HIV seroconversions 10 years earlier. When you think about what happened, the earliest seroconversions were 1978-79, but in order to get a lot of cases, you need a lot of people infected."

"Even if no protease inhibitors had ever been developed, San Francisco would have experienced the peak and fall around 1992, because infection rates went from around 8,000 in the early 1980s to about 1,000 a year. That's both gay and straight, though in the early years it was almost all gay."

"That was the peak. What has

happened is that through treatment people really are living longer, that's a different effect."

Uphill and down

Before becoming the city's health director in 1998, Katz was director of the DPH AIDS Office, a post to which he was named in 1992. Commenting on his job running the AIDS Office, he said, "I don't think it's a coincidence [that] myself and the previous director of health [Dr. Sandra Hernandez] were both directors in the AIDS Office."

"HIV turned out to be the greatest health challenge facing this Health Department. The people who sort of learned in the crucible of conflict of epidemics how to survive and build programs, have the skills people wanted in the area of running the department."

"There's no question in my mind that it was more difficult to be director of the AIDS Office in those years than it is to be Director of Health now."

"It's also true that I draw on those years all the time, as a model of how to respond to other epidemics and other social problems, hepatitis C, the housing crisis in San Francisco."

"For good or for bad, my staff always comments on how calm I am. Part of why I attribute it is... after you've been through so much death, to be upset by a vote at the Board of Supervisors, or a change in policy, or someone who's angry at you, just seems to be sort of pointless, so unimportant to me relative to what it was like for people I loved to be dying and for me to be unable to do anything about it."

Lessons learned

What overall lessons has he learned?

"It does provide a very different perspective on what in life matters," Katz says. "For what I think I've lost from HIV in terms of enjoying my 30s, maybe, I think the gain has been a perspective in my 40s that I don't know I'd have otherwise had on what matters, what is truly a life and death issue, what is politics and squabbling."

"And in the job I do, through all the controversies that come up, I try to ask myself, what really does matter, when I think about what I've done as director, I think, gee, it really does matter that I've helped Marc Trotz to open up four hotels for people who are homeless, the Camelot, the Windsor... And the gay and lesbian transitional housing [program], I think that's really a good thing."

"You know, I think the point of my job is really to be around to do the things that really matter,

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AIDS AT 20

Mitch Katz

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building housing for people or proper medical care, and the rest – the intrigue, the squabbling, the protests – they don't really matter, they're not really important."

And, he added, "It's only been in the last couple of years that I've found myself saying, the point of life can't only be to work ... there should be some other way to enjoy myself, and to have fun."

Declining optimism

Life after protease inhibitors were made available in 1996, Katz said, has shifted things for better and worse.

"I do feel like the success of protease inhibitors has made a fundamental difference. There's no question they don't work for everybody, that the side effects are awful, but anyone who has lived through those middle years, that I know, has an astounding appreciation ... you know, someone very close to me was, from my point of view, snatched from the hands of God."

"And it just made such a huge difference ... people who were preparing to die, writing their

wills, suddenly came back.

"I remember feeling this tremendous sense of optimism not only about people who were sick, but that this would burn out the epidemic, and I really didn't anticipate – although I should have – the degree to which HIV no longer being a death sentence, would affect people's behaviors."

"And I say that because I know myself, because in those [early] years, I felt that if I had unsafe sex, I would die ... and I don't think it would be rational to think about it that way anymore, I don't think that's true."

"A person who becomes infected today, and is willing to take combination therapy with three drugs, will live out their normal life span ... it will be inconvenient for them, it will be expensive, they will have side effects that they don't want, they may have changes in body habitus, but they will live out, I believe, their normal life span. That's very different."

Behavior and immunity

And that, said Katz, has changed the tune and the mores of sexual behavior.

"You know," he said, "when you're in the heat of the moment,

certain death is very different from the inconvenience and potential side effects of taking a lot of pills. I think it's resulted in a lot more unsafe sex, it's changed the mores ... what I remember in those years as a sexually active gay man was a certain joint sense of responsibility, not only was I safe, but other people felt it was important to be safe."

"It was sort of like herd immunity; even if someone didn't want to use a condom themselves, the other person would have said, 'Oh, you know, we have to use condoms.' I feel like that's mostly lost."

"I feel talking to my patients, friends, acquaintances, people have essentially started having a lot of unsafe sex, and that the rules have changed."

"I find it sad because I really thought the epidemic was going to burn out, that the number of infections was going to drop because of the viral load drops ... and it makes me very sad that isn't how it's worked out."

Prevention and funding

Amid public debates over spending, the question arises of where to target money.

Katz pointed out: "There's another study just out that shows

HIV prevention as cost-saving, not just cost-effective. PAP smears and mammograms are not cost-saving but they are cost-effective. HIV prevention is actually cost-saving."

He added that some prevention methods are truly effective, citing needle exchange for intravenous drug users, and small group counseling and support sessions.

But, he said, while attending such sessions has been shown to decrease individual risk behavior, "it doesn't begin to address it as a population."

Moreover, he said, "No one has ever shown that a media campaign mattered, which doesn't mean that it doesn't, but ..."

There are also "a couple of studies [that] show that if you can build opinion leaders around HIV prevention, then that matters."

Ambivalence over sex

Overall, in his view, there remains a deep ambivalence about sex: "In some ways I think it's gotten worse. In the earlier years, the prevention people, who – let's face it – are not generally people at risk, could feel that what they were doing was informing people ... you hear often, 'If only we could get out the message.' I'm only talking about MSMs, because they're what really fuels the epidemic in San Francisco."

"People know how HIV is transmitted; if you had a forced test among gay men in San Francisco, they would score like 98 percent ... it isn't about knowledge. I think there's a deep ambivalence from federal and state policy makers about funding something where they feel people are making a conscious decision about their behavior."

"All the things we do around harm reduction get a lot of flak, right? People say you're just condoning behavior ... policy makers are deeply ambivalent, and I think that more than anything has prevented people from funding prevention in the way they should."

HIV/AIDS: Looking ahead

While Katz feels the future treatment of HIV looks bright due to better medicines and adherence to regimens, he is not nearly as optimistic about prevention's outlook.

"I feel sex is a highly motivating behavior," he said. "It raises all kinds of issues, of intimacy, family, lust, and those are not issues easily translatable into a public health intervention. You can't address someone's desire to be loved, to feel a part of something, with the very best of media campaigns, the most widely distributed condoms, the best peer leaders."

"Mind you, you should do all those things, but I guess I feel a certain pessimism that those things will fully be effective. They certainly work, they stem the epidemic, more should be done, but I think there are more fundamental challenges, and some of my own prognostication for the future would be that more attention needs to be paid to wellness models, this a more general lesson of HIV."

That lesson "has a lot of applicability to substance abuse, homelessness, that would have to move from the health education to true empowerment type models that enable people to take control of their own health, that encourage them to be responsible for their own health by giving them information and tools, and focusing less on diseases and more on self-esteem, self-awareness, building communities, getting a dog, having family, addressing painful relationships."

Gay people need a strong overall community framework that they're often denied nationwide, he said.

"Donald Abrams said, and I agree with him: What a mixed message! Prevention experts talk about how people should have monogamy, and yet there's no gay marriage – such hypocrisy. How can you be at one time complaining about gay men having all these multiple sexual partners and at the same time saying you don't believe in gay marriage; shouldn't it have to be one or the other, can you really be opposed to both?"

"That's because he's asking for logic, thoughtful thinking. But this remains a country with deep prejudices against gay people ... you leave San Francisco, New York, you go most anywhere else, the prejudice is so deep." ▼

Survivor

◀ page 1

activities, and access to mental health and substance abuse services are all included.

A long-term survivor with a peaceful aura and inviting smile, Montez is quite aware that he paradoxically serves as both a role model for PWAs hoping to have full lives, as well as a spokesman for HIV-negative people who may not know all the horrors he has endured.

On the one hand, Montez is "very happy. I have a lot of good friends, and I know I'm very lucky."

On the other hand, Montez does not want younger folks to aspire to his life, although he believes he was once a lot like them in the sense that he ignored the warnings about AIDS in favor of a riskier lifestyle.

"When I first saw images of AIDS, it was a photograph of Kaposi's sarcoma, and I thought, 'Well, geez, that won't happen to me,'" said Montez of his sexual heyday in the 1980s. "I'd go to the bathhouses, and if guys looked skinny or sick, I would hesitate, but otherwise I assumed they were fine. Of course, that was denial."

Now 60 years old, Montez has lost count of all the friends he has lost to AIDS since 1981, which include his life partner, who died in 1991.

"I certainly didn't expect to live this long," said Montez, who almost didn't make it after a bout with Pneumocystis carinii pneumonia in 1996. He credits a complex drug regimen – at 37 pills a day for the past several years – with his survival.

"The drugs came along and changed everything. There was no hope several years ago, because it is a terminal disease. But now people can live longer."

AIDS beginning

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if drugs were provided for free, there simply is insufficient medical infrastructure to ethically use those drugs on a broad scale. Furthermore, laboratory tests suggest that the crucial protease inhibitors do not work as well against the strains of HIV prevalent outside the U.S. and Europe.

Developing a preventative vac-



Raymond Montez doing his laundry at the Cohen residence.

But Montez is careful to make a distinction between living longer and never dying, a distinction he believes the younger generation fails to see.

"I think they think, 'Oh well, if I get AIDS, my life can be saved.' But you can still die," said Montez. "You do have to take care of yourself and have safe sex."

Although the drugs have worked for Montez so far, he has seen firsthand what happens when they don't, "and it's not a pretty sight. A lot of people have multiple things going on. When your body starts to fail, it can fail in many different ways at once."

Montez still has vivid images of watching his many loved ones die, and by no means thinks that period in his life is over. But he is no longer angry, he says, because holding onto negativity is "a waste of time."

"It's been so hard, but things are going well now. I'm very for-

tunate to be in good health. And even as a person with AIDS, I can still find love," he said, commenting on a relationship he has had with a younger man for the past three years.

For the HIV-positive, Montez advises, "Make every moment – not just every day – special."

Lately, Montez has been enjoying the affordability of AIDS housing and using his retirement benefits to travel. He spends most of his days in the residence's garden, sunning himself on a lawn chair.

For the HIV-negative, Montez is cautionary. "AIDS is still around," he said as he sipped his juice in the shadow of several large blossoming rose bushes. "It's not something that you want to ruin your life." ▼

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HIV negatives: Forgotten, but not gone

by Katie Szymanski

When events marking the 20th year of the AIDS epidemic take center stage this week, there will be dinners and memorials, services and commemorations. But other than a declared recommitment to ending the epidemic, there will be very little focus on the lives of the people who have lived for years without contracting HIV.

It is a continuing phenomenon within gay circles, identified by many authors and scholars as a sort of negligence that ultimately leads to higher transmission rates: outside of prevention-focused groups, there is very little community support available for gay men who are HIV-negative.

"By helping to shape cultural decisions that exclude HIV-negative men from full membership in the gay community, program planners successfully reproduce the dynamic that gay men in general face in relation to the larger heterosexual society," concluded a 1999 study presented at the Adult Education Research Conference that was critical of many AIDS and gay-related organizations. "This leaves HIV-negative gay

men feeling doubly excluded – an overwhelmingly hurtful experience for men who initially sought out the gay community precisely because they had spent a life time being the 'other.'"

For people with HIV and AIDS there are parties, activities, spirituality circles, meals, and pet sitting, and eventual memorials and marches hailing the dead as heroes. For HIV-negatives, there is traditional prevention. It just isn't fulfilling to be part of a crowd with fewer options for community.

"When I was negative, I felt so completely isolated from services for gay men. I spent half my time celebrating the lives of the people who died, but nobody seemed to want to celebrate the lives of the people like me who had managed to stay negative," said Chuck, a San Francisco man who seroconverted three years ago, who declined to give his last name. "I can't say that I consciously decided to become positive to make the short-term easier, but I do know that

testing positive was, in many ways, a relief. There are fewer questions now about where I fit in."

As many organizations in San Francisco are starting to take notice of how traditional prevention efforts have failed, they are reassessing the role of the HIV-negative population in their comprehensive programs.

The great divide

There has always been a separation between those who are positive and negative, but most AIDS activism has understandably focused on demanding services for those who are positive.

"In the beginning, it was critical to fight for treatment when there was nothing. People were dying within weeks of being diagnosed," said Steven Gibson of the Stop AIDS Project. "The HIV-negative men took on a role as the caregivers."

Caregiver stress, along with survivor's guilt, has played a large

role in the lives of those who have survived the decades without contracting HIV. One program addressing such issues is the Kairos program at Shanti, a counseling service available to anyone who cares for someone with a terminal illness. The program helps those caregivers deal with the difficult psychological and emotional issues that often accompany the process of caregiving, and it also steps in to offer grief counseling to those dealing with issues of loss.

But on the other end of the spectrum are those HIV-negatives who have never seen a friend or loved one die. For these men, prevention is much more difficult; not only is the incentive to stay healthy not as evident, but the task of staying negative still tends to rest entirely with them.

"For the positives, there were all types of support programs affirming their lives," recalled Chuck, the San Francisco man who recently seroconverted. "For the negatives, we were supposed to stay negative, but at the same time we were vilified for trying to limit our encounters to other negatives or to safer practices."

Recognizing that HIV-positive

people are living longer has required a shift in thinking that negatives remain solely responsible for themselves, according to Stop AIDS's Gibson.

"Both positives and negatives are interacting in a way we didn't have to before," said Gibson. "HIV-positive men are living healthy lives, which include sex. That didn't used to be an option for a lot of guys, but 20 years later it affects everything."

The recent "prevention for positives" shift – as seen in efforts like last year's "HIV Stops With Me" advertisement campaign funded in large part by the San Francisco Department of Public Health – addresses some of these issues. And giving some of the prevention obligations to positives may help with the HIV-negative identity as one of all responsibility and no fun.

For Gibson, all these changes mean that the HIV-negative person should occupy center stage in the next round of in-your-face activism.

"It's 2001 and federal money still is abstinence-based and cannot be used to promote safer sexual activity," said Gibson. "These are the things we should be fighting." ▼



Dog mauling

◀ page 2

the hearing over her health or why she needed to be in a wheelchair.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge Philip Moscone turned down a motion by the defense to get the homicide charges thrown out. Knoller, who was with the dogs during the January 26 attack, is charged with second-degree murder. Noel faces a charge of involuntary manslaughter. Each also faces a charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being. The couple's attorneys argued that the mischievous animal law preempts homicide charges from also being filed.

Prosecutors said the defense's arguments were groundless and a strategy to get the couple off scot-free.

"And at trial they can come up with some cockamamie theory like 'Let's say some prisoner owns the dogs' and they walk free," Hammer argued, in a pointed reference to the couple's adopted prisoner son, Paul Schneider,

whom they claim is the legal owner of Bane and Hera, the dogs involved in the hallway attack on Whipple.

A hearing to set a trial date was slated for June 18. Moscone initially assigned the trial to Judge Lenard Louie, who presided over the initial hearings on the case but he was bumped off at the defense's request. The case was reassigned to Superior Court Judge James Warren. Warren is the grandson of late U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren.

Prosecutors said they hoped to get started on the case as soon as possible out of concern for two witnesses, one who is "under protection" because of threats and another who was fearful after receiving an intimidating phone call during the grand jury proceedings.

Hallinan told reporters outside court that his office is anticipating a change of venue. He said the trial could be held as close as Monterey or as far away as San Diego. He reiterated that his office would not fight the defense's expected motion for a change of venue.

Meanwhile, Moscone put off making any decision whether to unseal the grand jury transcripts. An attorney representing several media organizations had petitioned the judge to make the transcripts public. Moscone strongly hinted that he would be unlikely to rule in favor of the media because it could irreversibly damage the couple's chances of getting an unbiased trial.

"It's like the bullet leaving the chamber of the proverbial gun," Moscone said.

Noel and Knoller remain in custody at San Francisco County jail on a combined bail of \$3 million. The owner of Bad Boys Bail Bonds, Jeff Stanley, told the B.A.R. this week that he is no longer optimistic his company would be able to raise bail because the couple owns no real estate and has little assets.

Tuesday's hearing was attended by Whipple's partner, Sharon Smith, who sat with several members of the lacrosse team from St. Mary's College in Moraga where Whipple worked as a head coach. ▼

Housing bill

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tenant groups.

"TICs must not be used as a loophole for profits by real estate speculators," one pro-tenant speaker said, amid angry exchanges between people on both sides of the issue.

An opposing view came from Kim Stryker, who told the B.A.R., "We need to preserve any form of affordable housing in San Francisco. We also need to uphold democracy. The voters have spoken loudly [on Proposition N] ... and homeowners should not be driven out." Proposition N, defeated last November, would have capped conversions of rental units into TICs at 200 a year. Proponents said the proposition effort was sabotaged by much chicanery.

A police sergeant estimated the crowd at 200, "including passers-by."

A much bigger crowd gathered inside City Hall, and officials

opened two additional rooms with closed-circuit television coverage. Eventually the supervisors moved the hearing into the main Board of Supervisors chamber from the smaller room where the Housing, Transportation, and Land Use Committee normally meets.

Testimony

More than 150 people signed up to give two minutes of testimony each.

In the end, Supervisors McGoldrick, Aaron Peskin, and Daly voted to pass McGoldrick's compromise proposal on to the full board for a vote. Pro-tenant activists had said they preferred Daly's version. But a number of them said they could live with McGoldrick's revision of the Daly bill, which expands the cap to 400 units.

"Seniors make up 27 percent of those evicted," said tenant activist Robert Haaland, "but they are only 16 percent of the population. At least, seniors are protected in

both bills."

McGoldrick told the hearing that with 200 more units specially targeted for people at or below median income, some people would be able to become homeowners. "There's an unacceptable level of displacement and evictions – it's uncivilized," he said.

Both proposals were designed to halt uncontrolled evictions of tenants.

A number of neighborhood groups that say they represent both owners and tenants contend that regulating TIC conversions to condominiums will destroy ownership and in fact reduce rental availability. They argue that the city has no business getting involved.

The issue has deeply divided San Franciscans, mired in a housing crisis which threatens to oust thousands of renters through Ellis Act evictions.

Desperation

Many who spoke at the hearing

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Africa expects more from Powell

by S. Predrag

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell raised a few eyebrows when he commended South African President Thabo Mbeki for being "fully seized with the problem [of AIDS], doing everything possible."

Whether it was coincidence or not, around the same time a South African daily, the *Mail & Guardian*, published an edited version of Professor Malegapuru Makgoba's lecture criticizing the South African government for its controversial approach to AIDS.

During his just-ended four-nation tour of Africa (Mali, South Africa, Kenya, and Uganda), Powell listened politely to his hosts about the tragic proportions of AIDS and promised some U.S. aid, though most analysts noted that millions of people affected by AIDS need more than mere words of comfort.

It seemed that Powell's statement, after a 45-minute talk with Mbeki, had taken AIDS activists by surprise because the South African president is still questioning the conventional wisdom that HIV causes AIDS.

Makgoba, the president of the Medical Research Council of

South Africa, publicly warned that, "Whenever politics takes center stage, manipulates science and scientific truths for its ends, opts for the wrong scientific advice, and erodes the independence and rigor of the scientific methods in any country, the consequences have been dire."

For over a year, Mbeki has been accused by local and international critics of "flirting" with AIDS dissidents – David Rasnick and others – who claim that people in Africa are not dying of AIDS, but due to malnutrition, poor hygiene, and a lack of sanitation.

"The dissidents with their theories will come and go, just as they did in the U.S. and Europe. ... But, when they are gone," said Makgoba, "we Africans will remain, facing the consequences of this explosive and unrelenting HIV/AIDS epidemic."

He said that the current political and scientific controversies about HIV/AIDS, its causation and origins, are undermining all the good strategies that have a proven record of effectiveness, sending mixed signals and messages to those who have dedicated their lives to the eradication of the epidemic.

During his stay in South Africa, a country with 4.7 million HIV-in-



Secretary of State Colin Powell

fect people – the largest number in the world – Powell admitted that, "The statistics are both numbing and shocking ... [AIDS] is decimating the people who must build this Africa of tomorrow."

Sub-Saharan Africa is home to some 25 million HIV-positive people – more than 70 percent of the world's total carriers.

The 35 worst-affected countries in Africa are expecting 12.9 million deaths due to HIV and AIDS between 2000 and 2005, and in South Africa the population is expected to decrease by 21 percent by the year 2015; lower than it would have been in the absence of the AIDS epidemic.

However, during his entire tour, Powell avoided making a commitment on behalf of the United States to support people's desperate calls for cheap, generic

drugs because, many believe, this would mean a direct confrontation with multinational pharmaceutical companies.

Instead, Powell called for a mass public awareness campaign against AIDS and he reiterated that the search for a cure and treatment of the disease and its symptoms must be intensified. Last, but not least, he promised further financial and other aid.

Powell was touched when Patricia Asero Ochieng, an HIV-positive AIDS activist with the Kenya Coalition for Access to Essential Medicines, made "a very special appeal to [him] and the U.S. government to give more funds to Africa for treatment and to promote generic competition."

Ochieng, 33, who has been living with HIV/AIDS for the past 11 years, told Powell and the other guests gathered in Nairobi's Kibera slum, that antiretroviral drugs could have prolonged the lives of her husband and infant son who died of AIDS.

AIDS activists in Kenya, where up to 500 people die from HIV-related illnesses every day, asked Powell to back a bill that would approve legislation to allow the import of cheap versions of antiretroviral AIDS drugs. The bill is scheduled for debate in Kenya's parliament early next month.

"I am moved by her plea for us all, the United States and all nations, to do what we can to get treatment costs down to the lowest possible level ... so that we can make them more widely available to all who need those drugs," said

Powell, who stopped short of making any firm promises regarding cheap generic drugs.

Kenyan AIDS activists, who claim that U.S. diplomats in Nairobi told them not to display a banner with the words, "Put lives before profit," insisted that President Bush's promise of \$200 million for the Global AIDS Fund "... represents merely 2 percent of the up to \$10 billion that health experts are estimating will be needed a year to control AIDS in Africa."

Although one drug company giant, GlaxoSmithKline, recently promised that its AIDS drugs will be soon available to HIV-positive patients in Kenya at a price that is 80 percent less than their standard price – \$2 a day – local activists say that this will be affordable to not more than 20,000 people out of more than 2 million HIV-infected people because more than half of the population earns less than \$1 U.S. a day.

During the last leg of his African tour – in Kampala, Uganda – Powell commended the East African country for its successful AIDS awareness campaign which has succeeded in reducing the number of HIV-positive people from 30 percent to about 10 percent. Uganda was also rewarded with \$50 million worth of aid to continue its battle against AIDS during the next five years.

As far as the rest of AIDS-stricken Africa is concerned, their only hope rests in Powell's promise that, "I want you to know that the U.S. is in this battle with you. ... We will battle, we will win." ▼

Queer Arts Festival kicks off this weekend

by Liz Highleyman

Beginning this weekend and continuing throughout the month of June, the Queer Cultural Center (QCC) and the Harvey Milk Institute will present the fourth annual Queer Arts Festival. Following the tradition of past festivals, this year's series encompasses a wide range of exhibitions, performances, and interpretive programs.

The festival includes over 40 events, including painting and photography exhibits, dance performances, opera, theater, film screenings, literary readings, spoken word, and discussions with artists. QAF brings together well-known names from across the U.S., such as Alice Walker and Terrence McNally, along with local favorites such as Jewelle Gomez and Lisi deHaas.

This year's opening night gala, taking place this Friday, June 1, at the Women's Building, features celebrated authors Walker, Gomez, and Dorothy Allison, who will read and discuss their work. The show is a benefit for QCC's Lesbian Writer's Fund. On June 2, join Sini Anderson, Marci Blackman, Lynn Breedlove, Beth Lisick, and Michelle Tea for the release party for spoken word troupe Sister Spit's new CD, *Greatest Spits*. And on Sunday, June 3, opening weekend continues with "Inter-course: A Sex and Gender Spoken Word Recipe for Revolution," featuring Cooper Lee Bombardier, Thea Hillman, Max Valaerio, James Green, Red Jordan Arobateau, and many more.

Other highlights of this year's festival include the world premiere

of the opera *Wuornos*, based on the life of notorious serial killer Aileen Wuornos; comedian Marga Gomez's new show "Higher Highs, Lower Lows;" the final Bay Area performances of porn-star-turned-performance-artist Annie Sprinkle's "Herstory of Porn;" Liquid Fire's fifth anniversary performance "Nasty;" and Laurie Toby Edison's exhibition of male nudes from her new book *Familiar Men*. QAF 2001 includes far too many events to list here – for a complete calendar and descriptions, visit QCC's Web site or pick up the 12-page QAF program at A Different Light Bookstore or at various other locations throughout the city.

QAF is produced in collaboration with several local arts organizations including SomArts, the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, the Asian/Pacific Island Cultural Center, and Brava! for Women in the Arts.

The Queer Cultural Center, founded in 1993, is a multidisciplinary organization that produces artistic and interpretive programs. According to QCC Executive Director Pam Penniston, the organization is "committed to exploring queer identity issues" through art.

Along with the annual Pride Parade and Frameline's SF International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival, the Queers Arts Festival contributes to a well-rounded calendar of events that makes San Francisco the queer place to be in June. ▼

For information about Queer Arts Festival events, call the festival hotline at (415) 552-7709 or visit the Web site at www.queerculturalcenter.org.

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Why can't I be you?

A tale of two crimes

by Ali Hall

The following is an occasional column compiled by the AIDS Legal Referral Panel on issues of concern to people living with AIDS.

Dear AIDS Legal Referral Panel:

I'm HIV-positive and you've helped me with other problems. Now, somehow, someone got hold of my Social Security number and opened up a bunch of credit card accounts in my name. All the accounts went to collections. I had no idea this was going on until I applied for an apartment. Needless to say, I didn't get the apartment. What can I do?

In San Francisco

Dear ALRP:

Someone used my driver's license number, got in a lot of trouble, and now I can't get my license renewed. It could have been someone who was helping out around my house when I was really sick from my HIV meds, or maybe someone got my number hacking on the Internet. Now what?

In San Mateo

No surprise, identity thieves are on the loose. Even the simplest of life's daily transactions (receiving an SSI check, buying groceries with a personal check, renewing a driver's license, using a credit card, registering for an e-mail offer, etc.) involves revealing a great deal of

personal information; obviously, you don't want it falling into unscrupulous hands. And, if it does, you are usually the last to know, well after the damage seems done.

The problem is big and getting bigger. Trans-Union, one of the nation's major credit reporting agencies, reports that calls to its fraud line increased from 35,000 in 1992 to more than a half-million by the end of the decade. MasterCard reported that, in 1997, 96 percent of its fraud losses of over \$400,000,000 involved identity theft. And, in 1999, the Social Security Administration received about 40,000 complaints about the misuse of Social Security numbers.

Once they've got it, ID thieves, who have already used a variety of strategies to get your personal information, use even more creative ways to abuse it: using your current credit cards and changing the mailing address for your statements, opening new credit accounts with your name, birth date and Social Security number, opening bank accounts in your name, taking out auto loans in your name, and so on.

But I didn't do it!

In most situations, you are not liable for the wreckage caused by an ID thief. When credit cards are involved, the Fair Credit Billing

Act limits your liability for fraud to no more than a \$50 fee and frequently the card issuer is willing to waive even that. When it comes to ATM and debit cards, your liability often depends on how quickly the fraud is reported. The same rule applies to losses from a forged check. Banks are often responsible for forgery losses but consumers are required to take reasonable care of their accounts. For example, you might be held responsible for the forgery if the bank determines that you failed to notify

them in a timely manner that your check was lost, stolen, or misused.

Who can it be now?

Finding the culprit is best left up to the proper authorities. If you believe you have become the victim of identity theft, you will want to:

- Contact the Federal Trade Commission. They have a toll-free ID theft hotline 1-888-IDTHEFT, or you can use the complaint form at <http://www.consumer.gov/idtheft>, or write to Identity Theft Clearinghouse, Federal Trade Commission, Washington, D.C. 20580. You can also order a free booklet published by the FTC, *Identity Theft: When Bad Things Happen to Your Good Name*.



ALRP Law

- Call the fraud departments of all three credit bureaus and ask them to put a "fraud alert" on your file; that tells creditors to call you before they open any more accounts in your name.

- Contact the creditors involved and have them close all affected accounts immediately.

- Contact the local police and ask to file a report; even if they can't catch the thief, having a police report can help you later clear your credit record and clean things up with other agencies, such as the DMV; also, the police can direct you to other resources in the district attorney's office (such as computer fraud units).

- Contact ALRP for assistance. Although ALRP won't be able to catch the thief, you will find many valuable resources there to assist you in dealing with ID theft.

I gotta be me

In the meantime, protect yourself.

- Invest in a shredder. Good ones are available at little cost, and you can enjoy watching it eat up stuff that ID thieves would love to have.

- Look into Internet protections. Use only secure pages when purchasing on the World Wide Web and, especially if you have DSL, get behind a "firewall," a computer program that protects your activity from malicious Internet traffic.

- Avail yourself of privacy protections, such as those mandated by the new federal legislation, requiring credit granters and financial institutions to send you special forms to "opt-out" of their sharing information with non-affiliated organizations (you will find these "opt-out" forms buried in your mailings from banks and creditors).

- Try to avoid giving out your

Social Security number, date of birth, or mother's maiden name to someone over the phone or over the Internet when you haven't initiated the transaction.

- Try never to carry your Social Security card in your wallet.

- Put passwords on credit card and bank accounts; again, don't use your birth date or mother's maiden name.

- Order your credit reports once a year from each of the three major U.S. credit bureaus; that way, you are more likely to catch on to any ID theft activity before it gets out of hand and not, for example, when you're applying for an apartment or a loan. You can contact the "Big Three" as follows: Equifax, 1-800-685-1111 or www.equifax.com; Trans-Union, 1-800-680-7289 or www.tuc.com; and Experian, 1-888-397-3742 or www.Experian.com.

Since 1983, ALRP has provided free and low-cost legal services for people with HIV in the San Francisco Bay Area. ALRP provides direct services and referrals to HIV-sensitive panel attorneys. ALRP can assist you in a variety of matters, including credit and bankruptcy, insurance and employee benefits, wills and powers of attorney, landlord/tenant relations and housing issues, government benefits, employment, confidentiality, and establishing child guardianship. This column is not intended as legal advice for your specific situation. ▼

Visit us on the World Wide Web www.alrp.org. Do you have any questions you'd like answered? E-mail Ali Hall, ALRP client advocate at ali@alrp.org, call us at (415) 701-1100 or (510) 451-5353 or write: 205 13th Street, Suite 2170, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461.

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More sodomy laws on the way out

by Liz Highleyman

In May, sodomy laws in three states received a blow, clearing the way for freedom of sexual expression between consenting adults.

In Arizona, Governor Jane Hull signed a bill on May 8 repealing that state's 1901 sodomy law, which had banned oral and anal sex; the new bill also allows cohabitation of unmarried partners and allows opposite-sex partners to claim domestic partner status for certain purposes.

Hull's actions came as a surprise to many repeal proponents after the governor received a barrage of phone calls, e-mails, and letters from conservative constituents demanding that she not sign the bill. Hull's office received some 6,000 calls and letters opposing sodomy law repeal, compared to 3,600 supportive calls and letters.

"At the end of the day, I returned to one of my most basic beliefs about government—it does not belong in our private lives," declared Hull. "Keeping archaic laws on the books does not promote high moral standards; in-

stead, it teaches the lesson that laws are made to be broken."

The bill, promoted by openly gay Representative Steve May, had previously been blocked several times by legislators, but passed this year after being presented as tax-related legislation.

Not surprisingly, reactions to Hull's signing were mixed. Said Susan Wright of the National Coalition for Sexual Freedom, "As one of the millions of Americans who is scared and disturbed by the growing crusade of a small minority who are attempting to impose their sexual values on the rest of us, I am thrilled to see that Governor Hull for one has the courage to stand up to this minority and for the basic right of privacy."

According to Republican state Senator David Peterson, "This sends us down the track that says there's no difference between marriage and cohabitation. The track can lead to San Francisco, where health benefits pay for sex changes." Peterson has threatened to bring the new law before the voters in a referendum.

In related news, On May 14 the Louisiana House approved legislation that would do away with that

page 23 ►

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Anton Thomas Dunigan (aka Reggie)

December 25, 1950 — May 13, 2001



Anton was born in Buffalo, New York, to parents: Mr. Charles Dunigan and Mrs. Evelyn Gertrude Washington-Dunigan. He is survived by brothers and sisters: Michelle Dunigan of Oakland, and from Los Angeles: Leslie Donigan as well as Faune Toni Hill and Jon-Jon Conway Applegate. He is also survived by his family of friends and colleagues from the theatre groups; the

legendary Cockettes and also The Angels of Light. Anton was also a beloved and inspiring participant in the fellowships of NA and AA.

Anton moved to San Francisco circa 1968 and captured the imagination of the art world with his stunning sense of fashion and theatricality. Amazing photos of him can be found in the seminal book about the Cockettes in NY, called *Idols*, and more recently in the historical survey of Queer San Francisco called *Gay by the Bay*. He is a shining diamond in his recent interview in the forthcoming documentary film *The Cockettes*, in which he discusses his amazing life, mortality and struggle with AIDS.

A Memorial Celebration/Podluck will be held at Dan Nicoletta's photo studio on June 2 from 2pm to 6pm, 320 Fell St., San Francisco, CA 94102 (be-

tween Gough and Octavia streets in Hayes Valley; ring the intercom that says D. Nicoletta, on the right side of the gate). Phone (415) 861-8526.

Gifts/donations can be made to the family to help with the Memorial and Burial. Please call the Neptune Society at (415) 771-0717, or send checks payable to: The Anton Memorial Fund, 1 Loraine Ct., SF, CA 94118.

Antonio "Tony" Matos

September 16, 1958 — May 17, 2001



Tony died peacefully at home after a long struggle with AIDS and was found on Thursday morning, May 17. Tony and his lover who preceded him in death came to San Francisco in the late 1980s from

New York. He worked in various temporary clerical positions over the years. He was a great movie fan and traveled extensively, but especially liked Australia. He loved to walk and cruise the Castro and South of Market. He had an infectious smile and disarming frankness that will be missed.

Tony was an active volunteer with programs for the homeless, AIDS patients, and the elderly at St. Francis Lutheran Church, Metropolitan Community Church, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church. He attended St. Francis Lutheran Church regularly where he created a family in the absence of his real family.

Tony had both a birth family and an

adoptive family, but lost contact with them after some family deaths. If anyone knows any of Tony's living relatives, please contact St. Francis Lutheran Church at (415) 621-2635.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on June 3, 2001 at St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church St.

Christopher Charles Roberts III

Christopher Charles Roberts III was born on July 30, 1958, and gave up his ghost on May 20, 2001. Otherwise known as Puddin' and Bro', Chris was always at heart a gentle spirit and loyal friend.

He battled AIDS for over ten years, and lived independently for most of those years.

Chris managed to stretch a whole lifetime into those ten years, since retiring from UC Berkeley in the early '90s.

Chris survived partners, friends, drinking buddies from the White Horse, and other co-workers, and still managed to always bring freshness to all his encounters.

He managed in all that time to travel to Australia, Europe, and the Caribbean, and when home, would always be seen driving his precious Cadillac with his dog Hank as his co-pilot.

In his last few days, Chris' close friend, Dorianne (from UC Berkeley days) stayed with him to the end.

We are going to miss our little buddy who was so full of life and zeal! Peace go with you Bro, and know that you are being terribly missed! Adieu, until we all meet again.

Community worker Tom Vindeed dies at 62

by Cynthia Laird

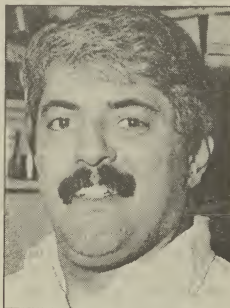
Tom Vindeed, a longtime community leader who served on the board of the Godfather Service Fund and stepped in to save the Gay Softball League, died Monday, May 14 at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco. He was 62.

Mr. Vindeed's lover and life companion Frank Rivera was at his side. The two met in the Castro in 1974 and almost immediately embarked upon a dedicated relationship that was to prove to be an inspiration to their many friends.

Born in Paterson, New Jersey, on July 13, 1938, Mr. Vindeed arrived in San Francisco in 1970 and spent the first few years accustoming himself to the open and gay-friendly atmosphere of his new home. His first involvement in the gay community was with the community softball league as an all-star player and manager. He was the starting short-center fielder on the 1974 Twin Peaks team that beat the San Francisco Police Department 9-4, the first time anywhere that an openly gay team had accomplished such a feat.

"Eventually, Tom stepped in and with the help of a few gay sporting pioneers, saved the floundering Gay Softball League. Over the years, he became the bulwark upon which the league has grown into one of the largest and most successful gay sporting associations in existence," said longtime friend and admirer Jack McGowan ("Irene").

As the years passed, Mr. Vin-



Tom Vindeed

deed involved himself in many community activities, both political and charitable, serving on the board of directors of the Godfather Service Fund, which for many years provided assistance to AIDS patients throughout the Bay Area.

"Tom was truly a dedicated and tireless worker for our community," said *Bay Area Reporter* publisher Bob Ross, a longtime friend of Vindeed's. "There was no job or charity he ever turned down. He was a fundraiser extraordinaire for causes he believed in."

"A case in point was the Godfather Service Fund. When he felt it had served its purpose, he helped to disband it. Then he distributed over \$75,000 to various worthy charities in the community, including \$25,000 to the AIDS Emergency Fund," Ross said.

Mr. Vindeed and Rivera initiated and promoted the Apex Awards, featuring an annual banquet honoring gay athletes in all

sports. At one such banquet, one of the awardees, Tom Waddell, announced the scheduling of the first Gay Olympics, now called the Gay Games.

Professionally, Mr. Vindeed was equally successful. In 1984 he joined a small answering service and in conjunction with his good friends Marylou and Gary Whalen, developed the company into one of the leading services in the western U.S.

Ross spoke of Mr. Vindeed's "impish sense of humor."

"How many people were on the receiving end of his myriad practical jokes we will never know. I, for one, always found his antics toward me very funny, although at the time I was miffed. But to make one laugh at oneself is truly a gift from God. We will surely miss this giant of a man. He brought joy to so many."

Ross expressed his condolences to Rivera, "My deepest sympathies go with you. You have a great void in your life now, but as Tom would say, life must go on."

In addition to Rivera, Mr. Vindeed is survived by two nephews and a legion of friends, teammates, and fellow workers. Friends said that he will always be remembered for his loyalty, love, and leadership. His fiery temperament lit a flame that will burn forever in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

A memorial service has been scheduled for next Saturday, June 9, at 1 p.m. at the Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street, off of 18th Street, in San Francisco. All are welcome. ▽

Sacramento's AIDS fountain lacks funding

by Dan Aiello

A fountain and reflecting pool honoring Sacramentans who've died from AIDS was scuttled from midtown's Winn Park renovation plans, an apparent victim of city funding limitations.

City Council member Steve Cohn (District 1) said that neighborhood funding priorities for a "tot lot" in the park as well as more attractive garbage cans and lighting ate up most of the \$100,000 set aside by the city for capital improvements to midtown's Winn Park.

"The consensus by neighbors of the park and by the city's park advisory committee was that the memorial fountain should be privately funded," explained Cohn.

Cohn, who represents much of the midtown area, said that the fountain was simply a victim of

the priorities expressed during three committee meetings and public hearings on how the limited funds should be spent. The fact that a children's playground and garbage cans were prioritized over the fountain was, Cohn believes, not based on discrimination, although Cohn didn't seem to rule out that possibility.

"You can never be sure what people's exact motivation is," said Cohn, "but it seemed that most agreed the fountain should be privately funded" while the tot lot was the responsibility of the city's taxpayers.

The AIDS memorial fountain and reflecting pool project may also be an opportunity for Sacramento's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community to honor and recognize former Mayor Ann Rudin, a former nurse, who played a major role in ensuring the city responded early on to the

AIDS crisis.

Although the fountain and reflecting pool won't be a part of the initial renovations, the proposed location is included in the master plan for Winn Park, with land set aside "in case someone wants to raise the funds" said Cohn.

"If someone is interested in raising the necessary funds, I'd be more than happy to participate in that effort," stated Cohn. The council member said that along with private donations he may be able to procure some additional money from city coffers to contribute to the project.

"Hopefully, there's some organization or individual out there that would be interested in taking on this fundraising project," said Cohn. With a little help from Sacramento's LGBT community, the city may someday have a permanent memorial to those friends lost to AIDS. ▽



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Eureka!

by Jim Provenzano

While some Memorial Day weekend revelers shivered over barbecues in the usually flippant Bay Area weather, or withstood the cool breezes at the U.S. Gay Open in courts around San Francisco, at Eureka Valley Rec Center, things were quite warm with the sweat of wrestling and martial arts.

This year's Golden Gate Wrestling tournament was the largest in almost 10 years. Some 25 wrestlers from Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, and New York City participated in the three-day event. Coupled with the International Association of Gay & Lesbian Martial Arts, who saw over 20 participants compete, spar, and perform exhibition displays, the dual event filled the rec center with all sorts of shouts, victories, and applause.

Many of the participants came from across the country or up and down the coast to compete and make new friends.

Drew Phillippe, Philadelphia Favorite martial arts actor: Jet Li

A brown belt going for brown senior next month, Drew Phillippe was happy to be visiting San Francisco once again, and this time for more than tourism. He is a member of the Triangle Shotokan of Philadelphia, which meets at the Martial Arts Lifestyle Center. Last weekend was his first time competing in a gay tournament.

Phillippe is definitely planning on trekking to Gay Games VI in Sydney.

"That's why I got back into it," he said. "I did some in high school, then stopped. I always wanted to get back into it. A friend went to Amsterdam and said how much fun it was. She did triathlon, but I mostly do things like biking and hiking. I always wanted to go to Australia, and this will be for something that's fun, for the sport and the cardio, since I hate running."

Did he have a different experience working out with a gay club?

"Yes, you can more relaxed. It's a great way to meet new people. It's about the camaraderie. Our school is small but we don't do tournaments yet."

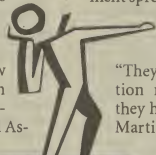
Katherine Webster, Philadelphia Favorite martial arts movie: "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, beyond a doubt!"

Katherine Webster has been studying since 1987, and is the co-president of the International Association of Gay & Lesbian Martial Artists. "We're also a director

organization of the Federation of Gay Games."

Webster serves as the martial arts delegate for federation meetings, supervising input toward martial arts inclusion in Gay Games' Sports Committee. She also serves on the federation's legal task force.

She noted that with several new martial arts groups in Europe, the U.S., Canada, and two in Australia, they're growing in number as the Gay Games movement spreads.



Sports Complex

"Plans for Sydney are going well," Webster noted. "They've had good registration numbers, more than they had originally forecast. Martial arts already has about 50 people registered, which is really good. Our goal is 50 percent women. Martial arts, unlike other sports, usually has

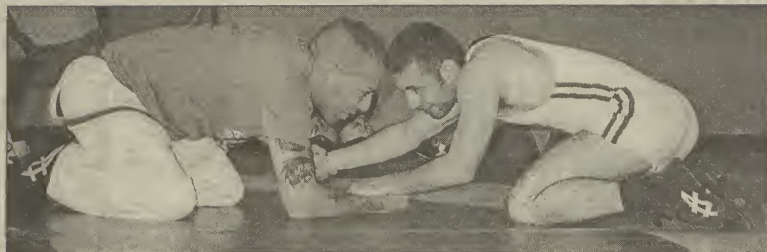
about 70 percent participation by women. It's not only unheard of at Gay Games, but in the mainstream martial arts at large, which is usually more 5 to 10 percent women.

"Martial arts are still very traditional in that they come from the traditions of the Asian cultures, where women are still not given full equal rights as are men," Webster said. "That philosophy sometimes continues outside of those cultures. One of the reasons our organization formed was that for gay men, while martial arts are a traditionally male sport, most of the men are closeted. Gay Games was the first time for many of these men who've achieved a black belt - which requires a minimum of four to five years - to meet other gay male martial artists. Our organization formed as a means of networking and support and education to bring them together nationally, to let them know about opportunities."

Despite a recent history of women developing self-defense skills, Webster mentioned that "women have traditionally run into a 'glass ceiling' in a very large national scope, so women-only martial arts organizations have formed to have training camps, seminars. The women were more in touch with what was going on about Gay Games, and are more out and open, which is kind of the reverse of other sports. This is probably why we have more women."

Last weekend the events included fewer women and more men, partially due to one of those women's groups, Hand to Hand, having a martial arts event in Oakland.

Master Ken Craig, Triangle Tai Kwan Do Club, San Francisco Favorite martial arts star: Jackie Chan, "an amazing acrobat," and



Head to head: Rafael Rivera, left, warms up with Justo Leon.

Jet Li, "He's also very cute."

Master Ken Craig taught self-defense and other aspects of tai kwan do through the weekend, and was happy with the turnout for the events.

With about 35 members, and almost 20 regular weekly attendees, "we're doing pretty well," he said. "We have about four people who are going to compete at Gay Games VI, and a few instructors as well." The native of Scotland is hoping to get his green card, "otherwise I can't get out of the country right now."

Triangle's practice days have changed to Wednesday and Friday at Eureka Valley Rec Center. Additionally, on Tuesdays and Thursdays Master Martin Marus, an eighth dan trainer, comes in from Concord to teach Bay Area. "The whole area has opened up quite a lot for gay martial artists," he said.

A dream date for a future martial arts event would be his home town of Glasgow, Scotland. Whether a combination of kicks and kilts might prove too revealing has yet to be determined.

Grapple-rific

Across the gym, mats were laid out and wrestlers stretched and chatted about the weekend's previous events and social activities hosted by the Golden Gate Wrestling Club. While many of the competitors were novices and sanctioned-competition "virgins," they enjoyed the world-class officiating skills of Alex Ostrovsky, a Russian legend and Olympic champion who, in addition to refereeing many local college and open tournaments, also officiated at the Sydney 2000 Olympics.

Visiting grapplers were welcomed from near and far at practices and dinners throughout the weekend. Ref Ostrovsky had to chide a few participants for joking while sparring on the mat. Others took the challenges seriously, and a few minor injuries were quickly attended to. The main success was the number of first-time competitors overcoming beginner's jitters in a supportive environment.

"The 'novice' division will be a new added aspect at the Sydney 2002 Gay Games VI, and promises to be the much-needed impetus for encouraging the growth of freestyle wrestling," said Golden Gate coach Gene Dermody.

Rafael Rivera, originally from

New York City and San Francisco, now lives in Seattle, Washington. He co-founded a new gay-inclusive wrestling club, the Seattle Kings, which is growing in popularity, particularly for their stylish T-shirts.

"We do fundraisers at bars," said Rivera. "We go to other organizations, like Gay Bingo, which supports AIDS organizations. We go as a group, get a whole table. I've called the numbers in my singlet. It creates awareness for the sport, to any event that's going on. We go as a unit, as a team."

T-shirts were sold at the nearby Edge bar after the tournament, where a few enthusiastic fans bought the shirts off their backs, literally.

Justo Leon, originally from Puerto Rico, now lives in Los Angeles, and traveled upland with four other Angelinos, reviving that club with newfound energy and talent.

"Coming to visit has been great," said the lightweight gold medalist. "It's just awesome." Leon brings considerable high school skill to his division.

"The first year I was the worst wrestler, and the next year I was the team captain," he said. "I represented Los Angeles city, and I went to state at 103 pounds." Now at 120, and a freelance photographer, he mentioned the difficulty of finding men his size to practice with. Most adult wrestlers are in the 150-170 weight range.

"It's very hard, especially in open tournaments, where I don't have to fight anybody. They just give me the medal." Just as easily, Leon had no trouble winning local fans with his bright yellow singlet and brighter smile.

Antonio Quirante (L.A.) and David Dodson (S.F.) sparred in what was one of the more exciting matches. "The 22-11 score at the end of the second period was a very physical back and forth that could have had either pinning the other at any moment. It was just wild," said Golden Gate's Dermody. "Antonio's experience and technique won out in the end with a series of 2- and 3-point exposures before the fall."

Golden Gate's Johnny Almony (team captain) won a decision victory over veteran New Yorker Ed Lindsay. Both faced a very tough match that had everyone on their feet. Lindsay, who had previously defeated the spritely Quirante with

his vice-grip technique, was bested by Almony's tenacious strength.

Philip Whaley of Seattle applied his years of folkstyle expertise with a lot of great floor work. Other outstanding efforts in the 170 weight range included Cy Durney and Anthony Gordon of Los Angeles, whose wrestling style matched his stylish tattoos.

Excellent food and irreverent awards were served, along with medals, at Dermody's home. As to the unnamed wrestler who competed in the Powerhouse Wet Jock Strap contest later that night at a benefit for Mikes on Bikes, despite most audience members' support, he won a close runner-up. The election was fairly Floridian.

Team beam

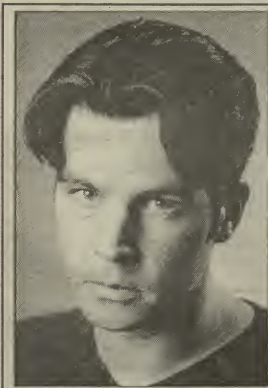
Looking for another sport to enjoy, support or assist? Attend the Team San Francisco general membership meeting this Saturday, June 2, at the Eureka Valley Rec Center at 100 Collingwood. The meeting begins at 3 p.m.

The agenda includes Pride Parade participation, travel and housing packages for Sydney, 2002, fundraising and other committee reports. The travel and housing portion is particularly interesting and urgent. Most athletes attending the late October/early November games in Sydney will be traveling through California. Anyone who's been to San Francisco International Airport recently knows the perils of that route. Don't forget to pack a book in your carry-on luggage, a very, very long book.

"Since there are a limited number of flights each day, it is imperative that we book as early as possible," said Team SF's Anne Ludwig. "If participants wait too long, they may find it difficult to arrive in Sydney in time for the Opening Ceremonies."

Qantas and American Airlines are the official sponsoring airline of Gay Games. To find out more about sponsors, travel packages, registration and other news and events, visit <http://www.teamssf.org>, <http://www.gaygames.com/en/>, or <http://www.sydneysydney2002.org.au/>

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Our Family

◀ page 4

house.

The interviews, along with court records and personal journals, form the basis for the play. Our Family called the production a "stunning, profoundly moving picture of a community facing a nearly incomprehensible event and its aftermath."

The *Laramie Project* made *Time* magazine's Ten Best of 2000 Theater list. *Time* called the production "a pioneering work of theatrical reportage and a powerful stage event." The piece premiered in Denver and opened off-Broadway last May. In November 2000, the

company returned to Laramie to perform the play for an audience that included many of the people portrayed on stage. The play is being made into a film by HBO.

Kaufman's play *Gross Indecency: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*, has been produced in more than 50 cities in the U.S. and abroad. It has received numerous awards. Kaufman has also directed *Tectonic* in *Women in Beckett*, *In the Winter of Cities*, *The Nest*, and *Marlowe's Eye*. ▼

For more information about Our Family, call (510) 540-7774, e-mail info@ourfamily.org, or visit the Web site, www.ourfamily.org.

Housing bill

◀ page 18

said they felt desperate after receiving eviction notices.

One single mother with two sons said her landlord was evicting people in seven of his 25 buildings. "I went to all the public housing offices in Bay Area cities," she said. "I was told there was a four- to five-year wait. I have no place to go ... what's going to happen to me and the other people" who have been evicted?

Racquel Fox stood by and spoke for an elderly Japanese-American woman who faced a different sort of housing crisis many years ago: she was interned in American concentration camps during World War II. A year ago she received an Ellis Act eviction notice.

"She's feeling too shy to speak in public," said Fox. "She's been part of this community and now some people want to exploit the housing market."

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce issued a statement saying its poll had found that 57 percent of San Franciscans see laws permitting TICs as a good thing. "Neither of the proposed ordinances being heard ... advance the interests of working San Franciscans to become homeowners," said the chamber's public policy director, Jaime Rossi, in a state-

ment.

As the Reverend Andrew Fong started to speak, a group of Cantonese-speaking seniors stood silently. Fong, backing the tenants' stand, told the supervisors: "From a church point of view, perhaps a minister is not supposed to talk about pocketbook issues, but ... I guess you could say I left my heart in San Francisco, but there was no more housing."

Karen Cromeey offered a different view. "This is a hell of a way to protect homes," she told the committee. "How far we have strayed. ... You supervisors have amazing feelings of entitlement over our property. You should be ashamed."

Where, she asked, is the effort to build more public housing?

Lesbian renter Cynthia Arnold of the neighborhood group Tenants for Homeownership told the B.A.R., "Thousands of lesbians and gay men have bought TICs, and they remain one of the most affordable forms of home ownership available. In a city of 776,000, to cap the number of conversions at 400 is a joke."

But a gay couple, Bob Hughes and Rob Rothfarb, said the building they lived in was for sale and "every week people are going through our place" looking to buy their unit.

"Our great and tolerant city is in danger of valuing buildings over people," Hughes told the chamber. ▼

cial acts of sodomy by consenting adults, because it violates the right of privacy guaranteed by the Minnesota Constitution."

The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit against the law on behalf of a group of citizens who believe they are unfairly targeted by the law, including a married quadriplegic man who can only engage in sexual activities banned under the sodomy law, a married elementary school teacher concerned because teachers can lose their credentials if they violate state law, a lesbian attorney and a gay law student who argued that they face eviction because their leases prohibit illegal activity, and a divorced gay man concerned about losing custody of his children.

According to ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project director Matt Coles, "This is a tremendous victory because of what sodomy laws do, but also because of what they say. Sodomy laws, because they are understood to primarily apply to lesbians and gay men, marginalize gay people and their pursuit of equal citizenship."

ACLU representatives are concerned that Governor Jesse Ventura's administration may attempt to argue that the legal decision applies only to the current plaintiffs, and are urging that the ruling be certified as a class action case that applies to all Minnesotans. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248648

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Sandwich Shop, 635 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chong S. Chin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 4, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/04/01.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0237859-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Sandwich Shop. Located at: 635- 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 1/24/2000. This business was conducted by: a Individual: Yun S. Lee.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2000

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Berkeley Stephen Charles. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1081 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. Type of license Applied for: 48-0N SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES
MAY 10, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320274

In the Matter of the Application of Brian Cash Geer, For change of Name. The application of Brian Cash Geer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brian Cash Geer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brian Cash. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248806

The following person(s) are doing business as: Jalaram Investment Inc. 2060 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amit Motawala, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/11/01.
MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321162

In the Matter of the Application of Diane Kang For change of Name. The application of Diane Kang for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Kang has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rhee Jun Kang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248962

The following person(s) are doing business as: Payless Moving And Hauling, 3068 Cesar Chavez Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Onkar Gousain. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 16, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/16/01.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248918

The following person(s) are doing business as: The Production Girl Party, Babe, Leather - N - Lace, 119 1/2 Park Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Susan A. McKenna. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/17/01.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321029

In the Matter of the Application of Gregory James Sekeres, For change of Name. The application of Gregory James Sekeres for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Gregory James Sekeres has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Gregory James Sekeres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 9th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 249020

The following person(s) are doing business as: Plan It. SF. 108 Lower Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Thomas Jay Bercu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 22, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/22/01.
MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248941

The following person(s) are doing business as: Intelliacive Research, 10 Lupine Avenue #13, San Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lawrence Manuel. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, October 1, 1999. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/18/01.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 240886

The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Virtual Assistance Network. Located at: 242 Cayuga Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: May 19, 2000. This business was conducted by: a General Partnership signed: Lloyd D. Haddad
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321310

In the Matter of the Application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of Name. The application of Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Nadine M. Arroyo (mother) for Mikaela Earline Copeland has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Mikaela Earline Arroyo. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321313

In the Matter of the Application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of Name. The application of George Michael Reyes, Jr. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that George Michael Reyes, Jr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Blythe Bastien Kahili. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 16th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248804

The following person(s) are doing business as: AG Group, 444 Clementina Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Alex Gong, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 11, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/11/01.
MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001

Request for Proposals #17-2001

The San Francisco Department of Public Health, AIDS Office, HIV Prevention Section is seeking proposals from various agencies for the delivery of HIV prevention services to residents of San Francisco and providers of prevention services in San Francisco. Services solicited are counseling, testing, referral and partner counseling and referral, individual risk reduction counseling, prevention case management, venue based individual and group outreach, single session groups, multiple session workshops, needle exchange, HIV/AIDS hotline, condom distribution, social marketing, training, and prevention for positives demonstration project. Up to \$12,000,000 is available for contracts/memorandums of understanding. This amount is available for a 12-month period. For further information about eligibility criteria, minimum qualifications, and service specifications, please see www.dph.sf.ca.us/contracts and click on RFP 17-01 or pick-up a copy of the RFP package from the AIDS Office, 25 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 500, San Francisco, CA 94102 or call 554-9331.

Bidders Conference Date: Thursday, June 7, 2001

Time: 9:00 am

Place: 33 Gough Street, San Francisco, CA

Sodomy laws

◀ page 20

state's "crimes against nature" law banning oral and anal sex between consenting adults. The new bill would add a sentence that reads, "sexual acts committed by and between consenting adults in private shall not be deemed as a crime against nature."

Earlier this year a judge in New Orleans barred enforcement of the sodomy law because it violates the constitutional right to privacy. The state appealed this ruling to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which upheld the law once before. In addition, the Louisiana Electorate of Gay and Lesbians brought a suit against the law because it discriminates against gay men and lesbians. Although the law bans sodomy between partners of any gender, LEGAL attorney John Rawls claimed that gays and lesbians are more affected because the law "denies [same-sex partners] the right to have sex under any circumstances."

Finally, on May 18, a Minnesota state court judge struck down a state sodomy law prohibiting oral and anal sex between partners of any gender. Judge Delila Pierce ruled against the law, saying it was "unconstitutional, as applied to private, consensual, non-commer-

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320978

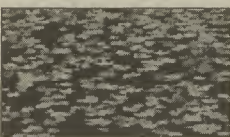
In the Matter of the Application of Kimberly M. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Lane for change of Name. The application of Kimberly M. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Lane for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Kimberly M. Lane/ Marcus Hicks for KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Lane has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to KeAndre Isaiah Shaheem Hicks. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 24, 31, JUNE 7, 14, 2001

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248927

The following person(s) are doing business as: Image In The Mind. Odd Objects. 317 Harriet Street, #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an Individual signed Andrea D. Elling. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 18, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/18/01.

MAY 31, JUNE 7, 14, 21, 2001



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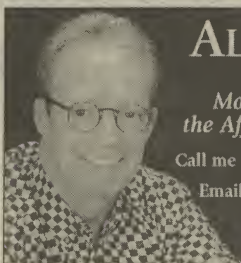
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E26-01

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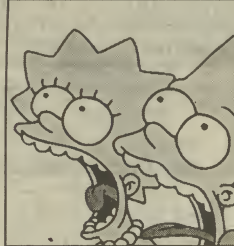
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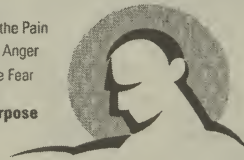
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It's Tony time for theatre queens
B.A.R. theatre critic goes to Broadway;
chats with Tonys designer Tom John.

pages 31 & 37

Sicks of one
Dragapella quartet the
Kinsey Sicks go on tour.

page 39



Montana triangle
Gay love in Big Sky
country, in 'Big Eden.'

page 33



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 22 • 31 May 2001

'CODENAME: KNOCKOUT' TEAMS TOUGH GIRL WITH QUEER SIDEKICK

Cloak, dagger & bouncy-bouncy

by Web Behrens

Caught by the bad guys inside the archvillain's secret headquarters, the sidekick sits bound to a chair, refusing to reveal the location of the stolen microfilm. Soon, water begins to pour into the room — one of those death-traps archvillains love, the kind that allows the victim time to escape. But the sidekick can't quite break free. Death by drowning seems imminent. Is all hope lost?

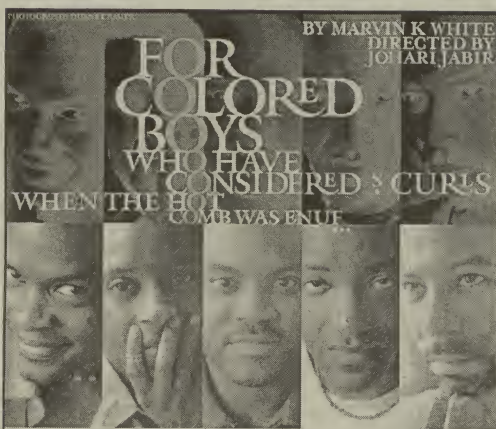
Of course not! Enter: Our hero, in a dashing aerial display! Goon after goon is dispatched as our brave protagonist splashes into the archvillain's inner sanctum in the nick of time, rescuing the sidekick, the microfilm, and the mission.

Business as usual in the same-old/same-old action/adventure/espionage genre? Hardly. This cursory summary might sound familiar, but writer Robert Rodi knows how to toss a few curveballs into the game. Yes, this is the skeleton of the story in the preview issue of *Codename: Knockout*, a new monthly comic — but it comes with a decidedly fresh twist and plenty of hilarious postmodern winks. Our hero is no James Bond re-tread: She's Angela St. Grace, the ass-kickingest tough girl since Xena. And her sidekick's not a damsel but a dude in distress: Go-Go Fiasco, an impetuous, hormone-addled, queer-as-folk 20-year-old.

It's a foray into new territory for DC Comics' mature-readers imprint, Vertigo, which
page 40 ►



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by Roberto Friedman and the Media Hose

To be young, gifted and a pornhound: Imagine our surprise, upon opening the "Life in the Gay Area" issue of *San Francisco* magazine, to find that one of "the Bay Area's out lesbians and gays [who] are making us all richer, sexier, smarter and more open" is none other than *BAR* porn columnist **John F. Karr**. Karr, we learn, "virtually invented gay-porn criticism. His column *Karnal Knowledge* is a major reason that *San Francisco's Bay Area Reporter*, the nation's longest-running gay weekly, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, has gone on in such style."



John F. Karr in San Francisco

Karr, who is used to writing about media blowjobs, not receiving them, is portrayed in a lifelike caricature, scribbling notes into a pad at the screening of a porn film. Strangely, there is no lube to be found in the picture.

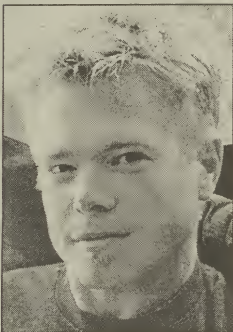
When writer **Paul Parish** asks what, exactly, in the films does he review, Karr responds, "You mean, how do they have sex? Well, number one, sexuality is subjective, so if I like something on the screen, you might not find it sexy at all. So it's a strange medium to be writing about. But what was the question again?"

Something must be in the air—or, like arsenic, in the water—because *BAR* writers keep popping up in the media all over the place. Certainly we were pleased to find our handsome arts

writer lifting his shirt in those new SF Health Dept. bus-shelter ads, looking like a million bucks. The ad copy for the AIDS vaccine project declares, "Some things are worth taking your shirt off for." We agree, and we're glad our writer is putting his physique to good use.

Then a few informal conversations with chatty writers revealed that not a few of them have modeled for ads and such-like portraiture! Why, there's even another handsome arts writer lolling poolside—and looking *mahvelous*—in one of those bathhouse ads we feature. We don't know where it all will end. Fortunately, *Out There* thinks we bought up all the remaining copies of our own photo spread in that back issue of *Gossipists Quarterly*.

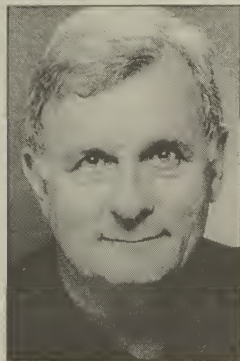
But back to where we started, the June issue of *San Francisco*, which makes some good choices (its "Who's Who" of Gay Area movers and shakers lists everyone from yummy chocolatier **John Scharffenberger** to KPIX news anchor **Hank Plante**) and has some groovy photo spreads, including one of gay funeral director **Cary Boisvert**, who sure is



Cary Boisvert: slay us!

easy on the eyes—presumably even if they're rolled back in your head and switched off for good. Shades of *Six Feet Under*!

Yep, we liked this mag despite its one big blunder, namely the inexplicable decision to ask novelist



Edmund White wash

Edmund White to weigh in on gay San Francisco for the backpage feature. Now, we are big fans of White's work, and think of him as a true man of letters, but come on! He lives in New York City! It would be like asking *Out There* to hold forth on the gay scene in Pittsburgh, which we know only from *Queer As Folk*. (What's that, you say that portrayal is heavily ro-

manticized?)

OK, we're exaggerating a bit, White did live in SF—for six months in 1972—but things have changed a wee bit since then. He says, "I just don't think I was cut out for the granola life," but no-one has thought to describe SF as "granola" since www.wheatgerm.com tanked. Doesn't *San Francisco* Editor-in-Chief **Bruce Kelley** know any gay writers who live here?

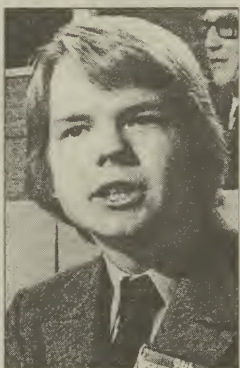
Oxford blues

Well, it's not as if OT goes out of our way to demonstrate our palpable loathing of gay neoncon **Andrew Sullivan**, but every time we think we're done with him, something new crops up!

SF author **Ian Phillips** sent us a copy of his first book, *See Dick Deconstruct: Literotica for the Satirically Bent* (Atta Girl Press), which includes a story featuring a "celebrated gay journalist and author," one Michael Andrew Corrigan, who spends a long night at a circuit party searching for King Dong. "Actually, Mac, as he's called in the story, is a composite of two journalists we all know and...." Phillips told OT. "But one is indeed Our Lady of the Pornstars."

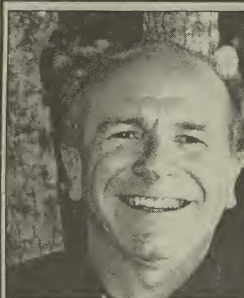
Then there was Sullivan himself, back on the pages of *The New York Times Magazine* with a butt-kissing tribute to his Oxford buddy, leader of Britain's enfeebled Conservative Party **William Hague**. "His platform supports a ban on teaching about homosexuality in schools," Sullivan admits,

page 45 ►



William Hague at 16

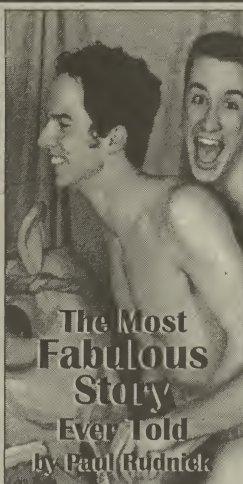
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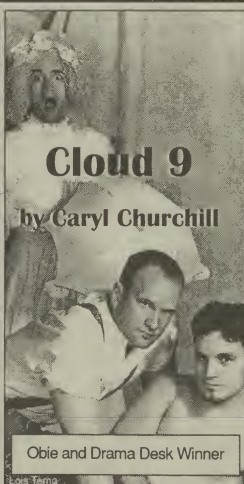
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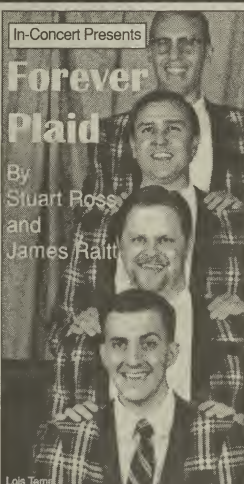
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by Richard Dodds

The phone rang. "Dis is Rocky from da ticket place," said a voice that sounded a lot like a Rocky. "I got ya two tickets to *The Producers*. You want 'em?"

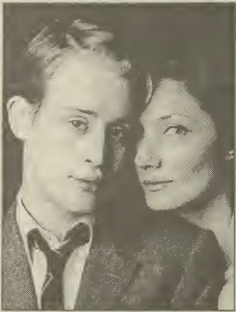
In the frantic quest to make sure that a spring theater trip to New York included the biggest hit Broadway has seen in years, I ended up doing business with a suspicious ticket agency in New Jersey that I had found on the Internet. Hello, Tony Soprano?

There are scalping laws designed to limit the markup a ticket broker can make, but I didn't want protection. I wanted a ticket. And I'm pretty sure the laws didn't mean much to Rocky anyway. Let's just say the amount charged to my Visa card was considerably more than the \$90 face value of the tickets.

So, was it worth it? Absolutely, though it's hard for any man-made spectacle to live up to the kind of hype incurred by *The Producers*, not to mention my own self-inflicted high-priced expectations. I'd give the show a B+.

Inevitably, *The Producers* became the cornerstone of a trip that included nine shows in six days. What follows is a capsule diary of this whirlwind theater excursion.

Friday: Having liked Richard Nelson's *Goodnight Children Everywhere* at ACT, I opted for his latest. *Madame Melville* treads familiar territory as it depicts a teenage boy losing his innocence to a sensitive older woman, but it creates considerable dramatic sparks within that formula. It also marks the acting comeback of Macauley Culkin, who is fine



Macauley Culkin and Joely Richardson in *Madame Melville*

when playing the 16-year-old boy, but who's pretty bad when he tries to play older.

Saturday: The matinee brought 42nd Street on the family-friendly new 42nd Street. Armies of precision tap dancers are always fun to watch, but otherwise there isn't much rationale behind this premature revival of the 1980 musical. But 42nd Street left our minds untaxed for *The Producers* that evening. It's a funny, tuneful, well-built show with a stageful of masterfully comic performances. Why ask for any more?

Sunday: An easy, 30-minute train ride from Penn Station delivered us to suburban Millburn, NJ, home of the highly regarded Paper Mill Playhouse. The attraction was a surprisingly opulent revival of *Funny Girl* with the heretofore un-



Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick in a scene from *The Producers*

known Leslie Kritzer quite wonderful as Fanny Brice, and the better-known Robert Cuccioli (*Jekyll & Hyde*) fairly awful as Nicky Arnstein. Back to Manhattan for an evening performance of *Bat Boy: The Musical*, a hilariously wicked satire of all pretentious musicals.

Monday: *Urinetown: The Musical* is another deconstruction of musical-theater forms. (Is anyone constructing these days?) Set in a future where you have to pay to pee, it's an imaginative



Jeff McCarthy and Spencer Kayden in *Urinetown*

satire that will make the leap to Broadway this summer. Wear your yellow hankies.

Tuesday: Even though *Aida* is due here in July, the chance to see Heather Headley in her Tony-winning performance led us to Disney's latest Broadway juggernaut. But Headley was a no-show, and there's not much else there to get excited about.

Wednesday: The cast of *Follies* seemed enervated at this matinee, or maybe it's an artistic choice. But the lackluster singing of too many of the principals can't be forgiven. Wednesday night brought a bona-fide high: Reba McEntire in *Annie Get Your Gun*. The twanging country star really is as good as they say, with great comic timing, an irresistible personality, and a terrific voice. Now maybe if they had cast Reba in *Follies*. "I got the sun in the morning, but I'm losing my mind."

It's Ubersensch!

The fabled power of *The New York Times* theater critic to make or break a show proved elusive in 1966 when Clive Barnes raved about *It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman*. The show closed after just 129 performances and slipped into obscurity.

But faster than a speeding J-Church streetcar, 42nd Street

Moon has leapt to the rescue. San Francisco's premier presenter of "lost musicals" will open its 2001 season next week at the Eureka Theatre with the brassy send-up of the Man of Steel.

Robert Benton and David Newman (who went on to write the Christopher Reeve *Superman* movie) concocted the campy story of an evil newspaper columnist who conspires with a mad scientist to destroy Superman's reputation. The score by Charles Strouse and Lee Adams (of *Bye Bye Birdie* fame) included "You've Got Possibilities," introduced by the not-yet-famous Linda Lavin.

Kurt Kroesche is playing Superman/Clark Kent, with Jenny Lord as Lois Lane, Edward Hightower as the villainous columnist, Jack Davis as the vengeful Dr. Sedgewick, and Lisa Peers in the Lavin role as a gal Friday.

For tickets, call 255-8207.

Prelude to dying

Craig Lucas, who created a romantic allegorical fantasy about AIDS in *Prelude to a Kiss*, journeys into darker territories in *The Dying Gaul*. This AIDS-themed play that one critic dubbed "the anti-Angels in America" has its Bay Area debut next week at the Portrero Hill Playhouse.

John Wilkins, who is directing the Last Planet Theatre production, calls the surreal 1998 play "exciting, difficult, and unwieldy." It focuses on a screenwriter who wants to memorialize his late lover, but who is literally and figuratively seduced by a slick producer to turn the script's centerpiece gay relationship into a boy-meets-girl affair.

"*The Dying Gaul* allows us to further our examination of what one might call a theater of hallucination," Wilkins said. "In all our productions, we have tried to develop a theatrical aesthetic that mirrors the movement of the mind."

Lucas' play will run through June 30. Call (510) 845-2687 for more info.

Screwballing

The title of Margery Kreitman's newest play is *Sax and the Single Dyke*, which fits with its description as a "screwball love story." Opening night is June 7 at Theatre Rhino.

The play is set in contemporary San Francisco, where two women, roommates and close friends, are forced to reconsider the truth of their relationship when an ex-husband reappears and a personal-ads date sends all three into a comic tizzy.

Kreitman's earlier plays include *Please Wait for the Beep and Picture Me*, which have been pro-

page 33 ►

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Travels and travails

'Juliet of the Spirits' plays the Castro

by Tavo Amador

Because they have no clear destination, journeys of self-discovery are often frightening, but they are the most rewarding. That seems to be what Federico Fellini is saying in his 1965 movie, *Juliet of the Spirits*, which, in a gloriously restored print, plays the Castro Theatre June 1-13.

The legendary Italian director insisted that this is his least autobiographical film. Perhaps, but it is a highly personal one. The eponymous heroine is modeled on his wife, Giulietta Masina, who plays an *haute bourgeoisie* matron married to a handsome businessman, Giorgio (Mario Pisu, who created the Fellini-based character in 8 1/2). The opening scenes show Juliet, assisted by two maids, dressing for their anniversary dinner, to be celebrated by the two at home. Giorgio, however, has forgotten the date and arrives with sev-



Fellini's *Juliet of the Spirits*: a long and vivid dream.

eral friends, including an attorney, an effeminate psychic, and the beautiful Val (Valentina Cortese). The patient Juliet forgives him; the group celebrates by drinking too much and holding a seance. Juliet makes contact with a spirit named Iris (Sandra Milo), who advises that "Love is for everyone." The group takes this to mean sexual license, but Juliet won't participate. Iris reprimands her, telling her she means nothing to anyone. Juliet faints.

The next day, Juliet reconfirms her connection with Iris, then has several inexplicable visions and dreams. We meet her icily elegant and beautiful mother (Catarina Borato), and her sisters Adele (Luisa Della Noce) and Sylva (Silvia Koscina), all of whom humiliate her — she's not stylish enough, has no children, has no career. That evening, when Giorgio falls asleep in bed, he calls out, "Gabriella." When she questions him, he denies knowing anyone by that name.

Urged by Adele, Juliet hires a detective to spy on him. Meanwhile, Val introduces her to Bishna (legendary lesbian actress Valeska Gert, who took the part after Fellini failed to get Mae West), an androgynous guru who claims "Love is your religion." In truth, Giorgio has been Juliet's religion — she had fallen in love with him as a teenager and has been happily building her life around him. Now that happiness is threatened, by Giorgio's presumed infidelity and by Juliet's spiritual coming of age.

Quench all

Juliet recalls her convent school childhood, in particular a traumatic production which cast her as a martyr being burnt at the stake. She was "rescued" from this by her beloved grandfather (Lou Gilbert), who ran away with a dancer, Fanny (Milo, in the second of three roles). Juliet is also haunted by the memory of her schoolmate Laura, who committed suicide. Later, Giorgio brings an associate, Luis, to dinner (the elegant, handsome, and sexless Jose Luis de Villalonga), who prepares *sangria*, a drink praised by Bishna because it quenches all thirsts.

A neighbor, Suzy (Milo), shows Juliet around her house, which is lavish in a Las Vegas, bordello-like way. In a scene reminiscent of *The Wizard of Oz*, Suzy takes Juliet up to her treehouse, where a handsome, buffed, androgynous youth promises sexual

pleasure. But Juliet cannot go through with this liaison, and retreats to the safety of her home.

The detective provides proof of Giorgio's relationship with Gabriella, which presumably is sexual in nature. Shaken, Juliet unsuccessfully tries to confront this woman. When Giorgio announces he's leaving on a business trip, her anxiety mounts. Before he departs, they have a party at which a psychologist tells Juliet that what she most fears is being left alone, yet what she most wants is to be by herself. Later, Juliet defies her mother, resists the comfort of suicide proffered by Laura's spirit, calmly accepts Giorgio's departure, and walks into the nearby woods, at last liberated and free to continue her middle-aged *bildungsroman*. Unlike the dark forest at the beginning of *The Divine Comedy*, this one is sunlit.

At least that's what I think is going on. Masina is, in real life, possessed of psychic powers, and an occasional, reluctant medium. At the time the movie was shot, her 20-year marriage to Fellini had hit a rocky point, although it survived until his death. Just which personal demons they are trying to exorcise here remain unclear.

The movie has a hypnotic, surreal beauty, like a long and vivid dream. The colors are arresting and the costumes fantastic, borderline *haute courtoir* for many of the women, yet designed to prevent physical closeness. Masina, who was for a brief period in the '50s compared by critics to Chaplin (on the strength of Fellini's *La Strada* and *The Nights of Cabiria*, which became the musical *Sweet Charity*), is generally restrained. She does not, thankfully, smile through her tears — indeed, she sheds very few — but her emoting does, at times, resemble middle-period Joan Crawford. It's a curious portrayal, at once remote and intimate. Milo, especially as the debauched Suzy, is splendid, as is the stunning Cortese. The rest of the cast is fine. Nino Rota provided a lively score.

The film moves in and out of "reality," just like Juliet, just like we do in our everyday lives. For audiences looking for tight narrative structure, this will be off-putting. But those willing to leave the "rational" world for two-and-a-half hours will embark on a memorable trip. ▼

Juliet of the Spirits plays the Castro Theatre June 1-13.

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Nicole Kidman and Ewan McGregor in *Moulin Rouge*

MTV rouge

Kidman tilts at windmills

by Robert Julian

If you are 17 years old or tripping on LSD, you'll love *Moulin Rouge*. Other viewers with more discriminating tastes may find director Baz Luhrmann's comic/tragic musical frustratingly schizophrenic.

Moulin Rouge, opening Friday, tells the story of two star-crossed lovers: Satine (Nicole Kidman) and Christian (Ewan McGregor). Satine is the "Sparkling Diamond," a courtesan who headlines at the Moulin Rouge, and Christian is the starving writer who comes on board to write a new show for her. The fly in their romantic ointment is the Duke (Richard Roxburgh), who is not only financing the new stage production, but is obsessed with its leading lady. And oh, by the way, although it has somehow escaped her attention, Satine is dying of consumption. Providing comic

relief, and serving as a one-man Greek chorus, John Leguizamo portrays Toulouse-Lautrec. It is one of those embarrassingly awful, wrong-headed performances that will take him years to live down.

The film's dysfunction is due, in equal parts, to its conception and its execution. *Moulin Rouge* is not a traditional motion picture, but a simultaneous spoof of Hollywood movie musicals and MTV videos. Although set in 1900, the film employs songs, or fragments of songs, that range from "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" and Elton John's "Your Song" to "Lady Marmalade" and "The Sound of Music." Working with all the depth of a *Saturday Night Live* skit, the film keeps its tongue firmly in cheek for the first hour. It then tries, unsuccessfully, to switch from satire to tragedy for the second hour. This failed transition is not assisted by the blitzkrieg of cinematic effects that constantly assault the viewer from the opening moments of the film. Although *Moulin Rouge* does not really work as a film, Baz Luhrmann at least provides a wild ride.

The director's dramatic pretense is that this is a film about love. It is not. It is a film about costumes, lighting, digital effects, musical travesty, and cinematic technique. There is not one shot in this movie that stays on screen for more than 10 seconds. The vocal and dramatic efforts of Kidman and McGregor are adequate, but no more. Here, Kidman looks and acts like Ann-Margret, circa 1964. But since Luhrmann does not allow his stars an uninterrupted moment on camera, character development and thematic explorations are pretty much out of the question. In this instance, the medium is the message that crowds out all other possibility. Craig Pearce, who collaborated with Luhrmann to produce the script, is no doubt in need of a long vacation.

Catherine Martin's production design provides engaging eye candy, as do the costumes she designed with Angus Strathie. And the cast of *Moulin Rouge* contains some wonderful dancers who deserve more of an opportunity to show what they can do. It's hard to predict if *Moulin Rouge* will be the kind of box-office success Nicole Kidman desperately needs; with a career littered with misfires, the soon-to-be ex-Mrs. Cruise has a lot riding on this one. But if *Moulin Rouge* takes off, it will owe its success to an MTV audience that can respond to two hours of entertainment doled out in three-second bites. ▼

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Puppets for the queer set

Barry Purves presents his 'Passion Plays' in NQAF

by Gary Morris

At a symposium on puppet animation in Canada a few years ago, Barry Purves, an alumnus of the Aardman Studios (*Wallace and Gromit*), spoke passionately about "directing" his elaborate puppets as if they were people. This is no mere conceit; Purves' puppets have a breadth and depth that sets them apart from most work in this field, and far indeed from the flashy but frigid creations of computer animation. In about a dozen years of production, Purves has created a memorable gallery of characters who are so close to real, despite the artificial trappings, that disbelief is willingly, happily suspended. As part of the National Queer Arts Festival, the gay puppetmeister himself will make an appearance to introduce his five major works on Friday, June 1, at the Women's Building.

Purves had a brush with Hollywood as head animator of *Mars Attacks*, but his puppet designs were ultimately scrapped in favor of more easily controlled, less labor-intensive computer images. Judging from his latest film, a whimsical operatic biography of Gilbert and Sullivan, he's no worse for the wear.

The earliest work here is *Next: The Infinite Variety Show* (1989), which in seven frenetic minutes manages to squeeze in an image or two from every Shakespeare play. The film is a must for fans of the Bard, who could spend some serious time determining which scene is from which play. Purves whimsically envisions Will himself auditioning on stage by enacting snippets from each of the plays to show his skill as an actor. In a typical image, a blue tablecloth (*Timon of Athens*) is jerked from a table and instantly reborn as a faux ocean on which a toy ship sails (*a la The Tempest*). The "14-inch Willy," as Purves called his



A scene from *Gilbert & Sullivan*, an operatic biography

Shakespeare puppet, also takes time to kiss a dummy of indeterminate gender as part of his audition. This is a consistently entertaining work that dazzles even when it's difficult to determine which play is being quoted.

Three years later, Purves released *Screen Play*. This startling re-creation of a Japanese Noh play (based on the ancient legend of Blue Willow) opens with the narrator asking the audience to "Pay attention when I show you young hearts in love, young hearts in pain." What follows is a star-crossed romance between upper-class Takako, whose parents want her to marry a wealthy samurai, and the peasant Nayoki. The film, which uses a stationary camera until the last minute, has spare, elegant backdrops that move on and off the small stage as if controlled by an unseen, godlike

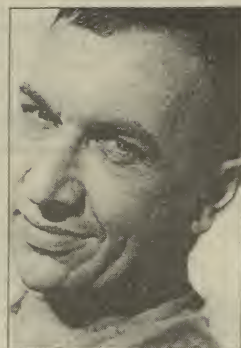
force, a resonant metaphor for the lovers' inability to control their destinies. The story's romanticism is tempered by a brutal, bloody ending, but what remains with the viewer is a convincing otherworld that does justice to its source. Not that Purves is entirely reverent toward the material; it's unlikely that earlier versions featured

naked, anatomically correct actors, as *Screen Play* does with its puppets. The film, which encompasses a world of Japanese culture in a mere 11 minutes, was part of an early *Spike and Mike* compilation and well deserves the acclaim it's received.

Bufs & buffoons

Opera is obviously one of Purves' pet interests, as evidenced by two of the works on display here. An evocative and convincing *Rigoletto* (1993), made for the British TV series *Operavox*, is one of his most ambitious creations, running 30 minutes and incorporating all that opera's dramatic fireworks. *Gilbert and Sullivan: The Very Models* (1998) pictures the pair as endearing buffoons, the stars of their own operas. The film indulges a whimsical sense of genderplay as the pair portray both male and female characters, dress in drag as appropriate, and generally carry on. The sense of fleeting fun that marks all of Purves' work is here confronted directly in surprisingly moving scenes of the demise of our heroes. Both are essential viewing for opera buffs.

Purves studied drama and Greek civilization before moving into the animation business, and his best-known work (at least among gay audiences) is *Achilles*. This story of the romance of the mythical hero and his young lover Patroclus is gorgeously imagined,



Animator Barry J C Purves

with stylized scenes played out by rippled-abs puppets on a dark stage. It's also a masterpiece of eroticism. It's not hard to imagine a new genre of puppet-art-porn following from *Achilles*, though "porn" hardly captures what occurs. The film envisions sex as a sacrament, with the pair sensually caressing each other and fornicating with brio. While the basics of the story are there — the attempt to rescue Helen from the Trojans, Achilles' refusal to fight when Agamemnon steals his slave girl — what's most indelible are the love scenes between Achilles and Patroclus, a long overdue visualization of the sexy side of all those "devoted friendships" of ancient times. ▼

Barry Purves presents *Plays of Passion/Passion Plays* on Friday, June 1 at 7 p.m. at the Women's Building, 3543 18th St. For tickets (\$15), call 552-7709.

NQAF sampler

The National Queer Arts Festival is a series of events, exhibitions, and performances organized by the Queer Cultural Center and the Harvey Milk Institute.

The following list of some NQAF events, through the first week of June, is not comprehensive. NQAF events continue through July 4; for complete information, go to www.queerculturalcenter.org or call (415) 552-7709.

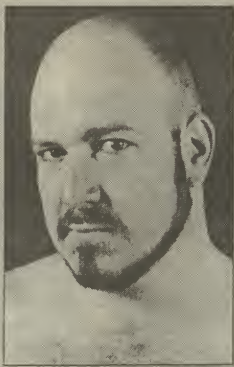
Friday, 6/1: Opening Night Gala. Alice Walker, Dorothy Allison, Jewelle Gomez. Women's Building, 3543 18th St. 8 p.m. \$25-50 sliding scale.

Saturday, 6/2: Queer Latino Art Festival: QueLACo Visual Art Exhibition. Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission St. Opening reception, 7-9 p.m. \$5. Through 6/23.

Sunday, 6/3: QccTV launch. Opening reception, NQAF artists on Website. SomArts, 934 Brannan St. 4-7 p.m. Donations.

Wednesday, 6/6: Randall Kenan and R. Zamora Linmark, reading and discussion. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission St. 8 p.m. \$5-10.

Thursday, 6/7: The Best of AIRSpace Series: *Bear-A-Go-Go* by Alan Reade. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. 8 p.m. \$7-12. ▼



Alan Reade in *Bear-A-Go-Go*

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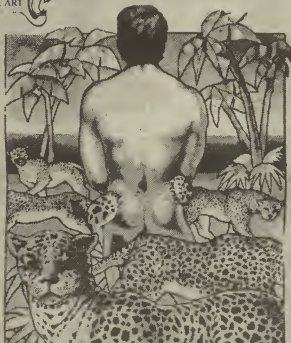
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Wyoming lightning rod 'The Laramie Project' at Berkeley Rep

by Richard Dodds

The creators of *The Laramie Project* are obviously not neutral about the incident that inspired their work: the brutal death of Matthew Shepard. But they are more interested in chronicling the revealing reactions to the crime than in creating a polemic condemning the obvious.

The play, now at Berkeley Rep following a New York run, presents a subjective snapshot of a small town that has been thrust into an unwanted starring role. Culled from hundreds of interviews conducted by the members of the Tectonic Theatre Project, and performed by most of the original interviewers, *The Laramie Project* elicits just about every emotion of which theater is capable.

There is humor, anger, sorrow, disgust and hope, as a cross-section of townsfolk of Laramie, Wyo., offer a spectrum of attitudes stoked by the murder and the worldwide reaction to it. Nobody, of course, sanctions the murder, but more than a few find ways of making sure Shepard shares some of the blame for what befell him. His conduct as a sexually active gay man becomes an inevitable lightning rod for many in the town.

Director Moises Kaufman and his Tectonic company previously explored another homosexual lightning rod in *Gross Indecencies: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde*. That play used existing historical texts to create its portrait of a society being forced to speak about a heretofore-unthinkable crime.

While Kaufman and company did use some official transcripts for *The Laramie Project*, they gathered the majority of the material themselves. That process becomes part of the dramatic framework, as the actors play themselves on location in Laramie, as well as the people they interviewed. It may be more honest than straight news reporting, which often artificially extracts the news gatherer from the picture.

The performers display a real skill at capturing the telling idiosyncrasies of everyday people as they try to make sense of what has happened in their town. Those fearing that the play may be three acts of grim testimony should know that there is a surprising amount of humor in the material. But it is not without its evocations of the gruesome crime or of anguished reactions to it, and the laughter can quickly turn to sobs as the show progresses.

Tectonic head-writer Leigh Fondakowski, who recently staged the premiere of her play *I Think I Like Girls* in San Francisco, restaged *The Laramie Project* while Kaufman is back in Laramie overseeing an HBO adaptation of the play. It may work fine on film, but it will be a different experience. This play inspired by a death is inspiring in its life on the stage. ▼

The Laramie Project will run at Berkeley Rep through July 8. Tickets are \$10-\$51. Call (510) 647-2949. There will be two performances benefiting Our Family, an LGBT family support group, on June 9 at 2 & 8 p.m. Call (510) 540-7774.



A scene from *The Laramie Project*: everyday people.

A dance to life 'Contact' at the Curran

by Richard Dodds

Even before *Contact* had won the 2000 Tony Award for Best Musical, the folks who run the Tony Awards changed the rules so a future *Contact* wouldn't be competing in that category. Now there is a category for "special theatrical entertainment," which went by default this year to a glorified half-time show called *Blast!*

The musicians' union didn't like *Contact* being called a musical since it employs no musicians. And Disney couldn't have been too happy when its pop-rock *Aida* was squeezed out of the nominations because *Contact* was declared a musical by the rules committee. Never mind that *Contact* is far superior to that pseudo-spectacle that can nevertheless claim musicians in the pit and a cast that sings.

Director-choreographer Susan Stroman originally called *Contact* a "dance play" — a term that was dropped when the producers realized their limited awards options in that category — but it really does seem an accurate designation. Whatever you call it, *Contact* is a novel and intriguing entertainment that creates its own worlds with breathtaking confidence.

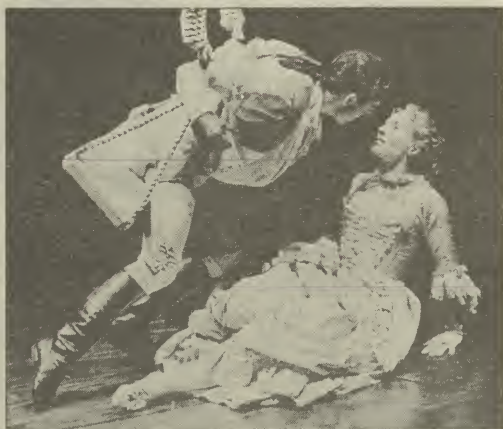
Still running at Lincoln Center with the original cast, *Contact* is launching a national tour from the Curran Theatre in only slightly diminished form. The three-part show, presented in two acts, gets better as the evening goes along and, by the final curtain, has wrapped up the audience in a rapturous dance to life.

Devised for the thrust stages of Lincoln Center, *Contact* has been restaged by Stroman for the proscenium theaters it will be playing on tour. It tends to flatten out the action, while the slight rake of the orchestra-level seating in the Curran takes it toll on views of the stage floor — an important vantage in a show that tells its story through dance.

It's not much of a factor in the short opening segment, an acrobatic dance novelty set largely on a swing occupied by a French noblewoman and a dexterously sexy servant whose job is to keep her in motion.

This clever but slight curtain-raiser gives way to a more imaginatively expansive piece set in a restaurant in the 1950s, where a bullying husband and his meek wife come for a night out. Whenever he steps away from the table, she escapes into an increasingly elaborate fantasy of dance that involves the waiters, the busboys, the

page 40 ►



Contact's opening segment: swing shift.

Designing Tony

Production designer Tom John prepares for the Tony Awards

by Richard Dodds

Tom John, the production designer for this year's Tony Awards, set out to be an architect and wound up designing for Barbra Streisand, Olivia Newton-John, and the Muppets.

With Streisand, he was the production designer on all her great early CBS specials, including *My Name Is Barbra* and *A Happening in Central Park*, winning several Emmys for himself. They had a reunion when she hired him to do the production design on *The Mirror Has Two Faces*.

"I like her a lot, and I hear she's very happy now," he said. "I wish that had happened during *The Mirror Has Two Faces*. It would have helped a lot."

John, a self-effacing gay man with an understated sense of humor and more than 65 years under his belt, was sitting in his office on 42nd Street surrounded by his sketches not only of his set design for the June 3 Tony broadcast from Radio City Music Hall, but also of scenes from the nominated plays.

"When I went to see all the plays, I made notes about the sets and sketched some of the scenes I thought might work," he said. "Of course, they all picked different scenes."

The producers of the nominated shows see the Tony broadcast as a big commercial, and are very fussy about how their wares are showcased. That means there are a lot of outsiders whose decisions must be incorporated into the broadcast.

"You ask one question, and you have a committee at your feet," John said. "It's like a rodeo."

But his main objective has been to create a sense of intimacy on the vast Radio City Music Hall stage. "It's like a football field," John said, "and we're going to divide the stage into three areas with presentations on either set, and then have minor stages on which we'll do short dramatic scenes."

Of course, the main lure of the Tonys are the scenes from the nominated musicals. And with *The Producers* creating a kind of national buzz that Broadway seldom provokes nowadays, the broadcast's slipping ratings may be reversed. The broadcast's producers also quickly snagged Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick, the stars of *The Producers*, to host the two-hour show on CBS. (The first hour, which includes the presentation of 10 awards, is broadcast on PBS, but KQED in San Francisco has again declined to carry it.)

Live on tape

Some of the musical numbers will be performed live, some will be on tape, and at least one will be a combination of both.

It is John's idea to show the cast members of *42nd Street* heading out the door of their theater on 42nd Street, singing and dancing their way onto a subway that will take them to Radio City, where they will parade down the aisles and onto the stage to finish the number. "We're trying to break the mold," John said.

John has also designed the Academy Awards ceremony, which can be more fun and less of



Tom John with a set design for the Tonys at Radio City Music Hall.

a headache. "The Oscars have more money," he said. "The Tonys have a very tight budget."

But doesn't working in the theater world have its own special rewards? "I try," he said, "to keep telling myself that."

John first got hooked on theater while working as an architect in Detroit. "I was doing a little summer theater on the side," he said. "It was a tent theater, and a storm came along and blew it away. So I went to St. Louis and bought the first geodesic dome for a theater in the round."

A job as head architect on a hotel to be built in the Near East brought him to New York. "I got here and they had a revolution or something," John said. "I was stranded on the streets of New York, and I started doing advertising and became an art director, and then CBS called."

Being gay may have led John to the theater, but he said it hasn't been a main concern of his life or career. "The theater is always flamboyant, and you can be whatever you want to be. That's why we're all attracted to it," he said. "But [being gay] has never been a major issue with me. People respected me for my talent, and it's always been on that level. I never had to sleep with anyone to get a job."

John made his Broadway debut as a set designer in 1968 with *George M!* starring Joel Grey and Bernadette Peters. It was a happy experience, something that would prove elusive in his subsequent Broadway forays.

There was an all-black revival of *Guys and Dolls*, the memory of which caused John to roll his eyes. "I didn't quite work," he said discretely.

The Wiz was a better experience, but it didn't start that way. "It was another circus, but when it came to opening night on Broadway, all this energy came on stage, like nothing we ever saw before."

And then there was *Peggy*, designed as a retrospective of Peggy Lee's career. "I think the Mafia must have had money in it," John said. "It was so peculiar. They'd be bringing Peggy fur coats, and they

were charging it all off to Peggy. I spent more time redoing her dressing room than I did the stage. It was a nightmare."

He must be wondering if his decision to design a house for a friend in San Francisco might not also turn out thus.

"It's on two vacant lots in Noe Valley," John said, "but the city is only allowing us to build on one of them. They said you have to make it blend into the neighborhood. Well, I looked at the neighborhood, and there's a house in Frank Gehry's style, and then there are all these little cottages, and then these Tudor things. We'll never fit in." ▼

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Verdi without tears

SF Opera presents a summer 'Verdi Celebration'

by Stephanie von Buchau

After 50-odd years of listening to Giuseppe Verdi's operas, live and on recordings, I have strong opinions about what I like. Surprise, surprise, they often differ from "received opinions," especially those received from Britain's *Gramophone* magazine, which boasts prissy critics who loathe anything wild, passionate or uncontrolled. For years they railed against elemental tenors Mario Del Monaco and Franco Corelli; now I suspect most of them would kill their grandchildren to hear even one voice like that today. (And no, fellas, José Cura is not the answer.)

So here is my idiosyncratic look at some of the new Verdi recordings that mark the celebration (if that is the correct word) of the centenary of the maestro's death in 1901:

Attila (Kicco Classic; two discs) If you'd like to be reassured that old-fashioned, gut-busting Italian opera is not nearly as dead as has been reported, try this live, 1999 barebones (libretto, but no translations) performance from Sardinia, with what sounds like an amateur orchestra and chorus. The Sicilian bass-baritone Simone Alaimo blazes through the title role; he's more masculine and dangerous than Sam Ramey, and has better chest hair, too. The sizzling Odabella is the controversial Italian dramatic soprano Tiziana Fabbricini, still the best Violetta I've ever heard live. Conductor Massimiliano Stefanelli understands that early Verdi needs to go fast.

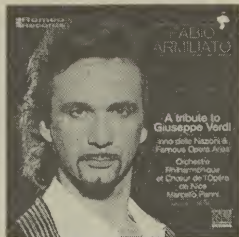
Falstaff (Philips; two discs) In his program notes, conductor John Eliot Gardiner quotes Verdi's intent "to extract the juice from the enormous Shakespearean orange without letting the useless pips slip into the glass." Alas, the singers on this album — Lafont, Michaels-Moore, Martinpelto — are mostly pip-squeaks (though I love the Fenton and Nanetta). We must be content with quicksilver tempos, tons of detail, wide dynamic range and period instruments that, while they may sound

funny to you, actually approximate what the orchestra sounded like to Verdi. Good for score reading. Better news: Toscanini's classic NBC Symphony performance has been spectacularly remastered on RCA Red Seal.

Jérusalem (Philips; three discs) This is the 1847 Paris version, sung in French with complete ballet music, of the opera better known as *I Lombardi alla prima crociata* (*The Lombards at the First Crusade*). It's not as great a piece as Verdi's later French grand operas — *Don Carlos* and *Les Vêpres siciliennes* — but if you are a Verdi completist, you have to have this premiere recording. Especially since it is excitingly conducted by Fabio Luisi and thrillingly sung by SFO fave Marcello Giordani and a high-powered if unruly Russian soprano, Marina Mescheriakova.



Simon Boccanegra (Dynamic; two discs) From the obscure Festival della Valle d'Itria comes the CD premiere of Verdi's 1857 original *Simone*, without the magnificent Boito revisions. This means no council chamber scene with that most noble Verdian aria, "Plebe, Patrizi, Popolo," but the serious Verdian will be fascinated by the composer's first thoughts. Besides, as is usual with this Festival, the singing is first-rate. The star is their heroic Chinese tenor, Warren Mok (who, in old SFO days, would have made his US debut here by now). Baritone Vittorio Vitelli (Boccanegra) and soprano Annalisa Raspagliosi (Amelia) are alive and kicking, but I still have my doubts about bass Francesco Ellero D'Artegna (Fiesco). Renato Palumbo conducts.



Fabio Armiliato Sings a Tribute to Verdi (Romeo Records) Armiliato, who sang in SF earlier in his career, has Corelli delusions, probably because he is tall, slender and has a loud voice. He's an honest, plangent tenor without much subtlety. The disc contains, in addition to arias from *Macbeth*, *Masnadieri*, *Boccanegra*, *Ballo*, *Forza* and *Otello*, the hilarious "Hymn of Nations" (1862), 12 minutes of national anthems and bombastic poetry. Give this disc to someone who thinks they have heard it all.



Thomas Hampson Sings Verdi (EMI) Very strangely, too. His liquid legato and beautifully cultivated tone make for some sensational vocalism in the French versions of *Trovatore* and *Vêpres siciliennes*, but too often he sings a slow aria without its vigorous cabaletta. How odd, then, to hear Germont's cabaletta, almost never performed on stage. Not even Hampson's mellifluous baritone can convince me this isn't the duller thing Verdi ever wrote.

Les Introuvables du Chant Verdien (EMI; eight discs) *Introuvable* literally means "lost," yet most of us know these performances by early singers from other sources. Still, in addition to

the usual suspects — Christoff, Battistini, Tetrizzini, Gigli, Gobbi, Rethberg, Destinn, Martinelli, Tamagno (the original Otello, here past his prime) and Pertile — there are discoveries. Try Charles Dalmores (1907) or César Vezzani (1929) as Manrico. Or Björn Talen and Lola de Padilla in *Traviata* (1920), Florence Austral's Aida (1927), and various super Otellos from the '20s — John O'Sullivan, Tino Pattiera, Giuseppe Borgatti, or my favorite, Renato Zanelli. Who knew?

Plus, I'd buy this set for its photo of the young, drop-dead-gorgeous Giacomo Lauri-Volpi, the Met's first Calaf. His only vocal contribution here is a ringing "Esultate!" which makes you want to hear the rest of the opera. Italians sometimes refer



Gorgeous Giacomo Lauri-Volpi

to Lauri-Volpi's bright, hyper-masculine timbre as "balls in the throat." I can't top that. ▼

San Francisco Opera's summer **Verdi Celebration** runs through July 1. Info and tickets at (415) 864-3330 or at www.sfoopera.com.

Operatic potpourri

by Jason Serinus

With the San Francisco Opera's *Verdi Celebration* underway and the San Francisco Symphony winding up its season with vocal performances by Thomas Hampson, everyone under the sun in Mahler's *Symphony of a Thousand*, and Frederica von Stade in Mozart, opera is in the air. Let us seize the opportunity to investigate a pair of recent opera releases that deserve the attention of far more than one opera queen.



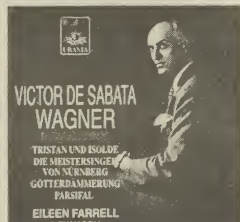
Rigoletto — Verdi
Maria Callas, Giuseppe Di Stefano, Guido Picco (Allegro)

Allegro has been doing a superb job of remastering classic live opera recordings from the '50s, '60s and '70s. This one, a famed May 29, 1952 Mexico City Palacio de Belles Artes performance, is a knockout. Singing the roles of Gilda and her paramour, the Duke of Mantua, the 28-year-old soprano Callas and the prime-voiced tenor Di Stefano match each other in power, beauty, and sheer *chutzpah*. Callas may have sung Gilda with more subtlety and finesse as she entered her 30s, but she did not dare throw in optional high E-flats of such power as to undoubtedly contribute to Mexico City's future earthquakes. The best way to serve Verdi's drama may not be to end "Caro Nome" by exiting the stage on a blazing high E-flat, but it sure blows the socks off the music.

In taking his voice to the very edge, Di Stefano is very much Callas' equal. In full command of his faculties at this point in his career, he offers both blazing high Cs

and hushed, honeyed sweetness. Holding nothing back, his "La donna e mobile" is so forward and stunning that he indulges both the audience and himself by encoring the second verse, again nailing the high C to perfection.

Hearing these two encourage each other to go all out helps explain why, just six years later, Callas' wobble increasingly intruded on her fraying upper range, and Di Stefano's high notes were less sung than shouted. Take advantage of the opportunity to hear these two colossal singers when their voices were the equal of their egos.



Victor de Sabata — Wagner
Eileen Farrell, New York Philharmonic (Urania)

A few months back, I raved about the famed 1970 live recording of Leonard Bernstein conducting the New York Philharmonic, soprano Eileen Farrell and tenor Jess Thomas in scenes from Wagner's *Götterdämmerung* (available only in a special 10-CD Bernstein/NY Philharmonic set). Recorded when the soprano was 50 years old, Farrell was still in gorgeous voice, but her very top lacked the strength that she offered in her younger years. No concern in this release, as the 31-year-old soprano, captured in 1951, sings Isolde's Liebestod from *Tristan und Isolde* and Brunnhilde's Immolation Scene from *Die Gotterdammerung* with incomparable beauty and ease. The recording is mainly devoted to Victor de Sabata conducting selections from four Wagner operas, but it is for Farrell that most opera queens will snap up this disc.

Farrell's voice, like Flagstad's
page 40 ►

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MUSIC

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The Kinsey Sicks kick off their national tour

by Bob Roehr

They're a celebration of big hair, tight harmony, loose morals, and sharp wit, all wrapped around the teeming absurdities of daily life. They're the Kinsey Sicks, the world's most fabulous a cappella drag queen beautyshop quartet. Regardless how you string the words together, the Sicks are a unique and exhilarating experience that is on a fast track to stardom.

The Kinsey Sicks are exploding out of San Francisco to hit gay pride celebrations in cities across the nation before the fireworks of a July 4th opening in Provincetown for a run through Labor Day. Fall takes them to an open-ended stay Off-Broadway in the Big Apple.

It all started as a hoot, dressing up as the Andrews Sisters for a Bette Midler concert to usher in the new year of 1994. As the gaggle of friends wandered home that night, there was a kind of spontaneous combustion of song that lasted until three in the morning.

They considered several names but settled on the Kinsey Sicks to "make it clear that we're queer and that we have ... challenging senses of humor," says Ben Schatz, one of the outrageously entertaining quartet.

The name is a play on the six-point scale of sexual orientation devised by famed researcher Alfred Kinsey. (Guess which end they're at.) Their choice in a name speaks of the intelligence, sophistication, and self-deprecating, sexually-charged sense of humor that permeates a Sicks experience.

"This is about four very strange and troubled women, although it is not always clear that they are actually women," says Schatz. "If anything, we are parodying drag as we are parodying everything else. We are not trying to pass as women by any means. And it's a damn good thing — we'd be miserable, abject failures."

Muni stomp

They debuted outside the Muni station at Harvey Milk Plaza in their stomping grounds of the Castro, in July 1994. They were just "thrilled" that people dropped \$37 into the carved buck duck used to gather donations, recalls Schatz. His alter ego is the pert, slutty tart Rachel.

The personalities have evolved over time. "Rachel used to be bitchier, and then I got some feedback that a little vulnerability would be nice. So now she is both bitchy and vulnerable." The other "girls" are the glamorous diva Trixie, the anal-retentive Tupperware fanatic Winnie, and Tramolina, the Marge Simpson-bee-



Top to bottom: Irwin Keller, Maurice Kelly, Ben Schatz, Chris Dilley

hived ingénue of the group.

Bette has inspired lots of folks, but the Sicks are one of the few acts worthy of the comparison. They are originals, not imitations, who deliver on the promise of brassy over-the-top personalities, flamboyant showmanship, and music so good it takes your breath away.

Schatz is the group's principle lyricist, but everyone lends a hand at reshaping things in rehearsal. He says, "The point is to come up with something as good as possible. And that means having to let go of some ego."

The words are sharp and insightful, perhaps a bit more risqué than one would expect from a guy who went to Harvard, stayed for law school, and was welcomed at the White House as an advisor on AIDS. The songs embrace the dichotomies of gay life and contemporary society.

Take the 1963 girl group chart-topper "I Will Follow Him" by Little Peggy March (please!). The Sicks remade it as "I Will Swallow Him," with lyrics that include: "For kneeling I always will be/ And nothing can make me unsafe/ Except booze or Ecstasy."

"I'm particularly proud of that song," says Schatz. "I think that is part of why people like us, we're not just silly drag queens. We sing a lot better than people expect us

to, and our lyrics are intelligent and provocative. Sometimes there is some real content to it, and sometimes it's just silly."

"One of the things I love doing most is pushing the envelope," he says, but that has become more difficult as gays have become more accepted by society. "I loved being a gay rights lawyer, and I loved being an executive director [of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association]," says Schatz. But he also finds real joy in performing. "Right now, I think I can reach more people by being a singing

drag queen than by being a talking head."

Filling holes

The music is hard to pigeonhole, or perhaps it is more accurate to say that the Sicks can fill any pigeonhole as they ricochet between male and female personae and voices. They handle classic doo-wop in songs like "Take Me Home to Meet your Mama" (the fears of introducing a drag queen to Mom), and the countryish tribute to Karen Carpenter, "Lifesize Jesus," that tromps the line between pathos and laughter in size-12 pumps.

The bubblegum bounce of the Jackson Five's "ABC" morphs into "AZT." It may be followed by a renaissance madrigal reworked into a leather paean, "April Sat on My Master's Face." "Titanic: Why Does Celine Go On?" gives the Canadian diva an amazing note-for-note run for her money, even while mocking the colossal ego.

"One of the things that we try to do, and I think we succeed, is that people don't know where we are going to take them," says Schatz. "And that is on any given song. Is this going to be funny? Is this going to be serious? Is this going to be somewhere in-between? We try to stretch people."

Unlike so many "novelty" acts that quickly become boring once you get the point, the Sicks hold up to repeated listening. It's because of the great love and respect they show for the music and performers they lampoon. That comes across in concert and their two CDs, *Dragapella!* and *Boyz 2 Girlz*.

"We have to be musically up there with other a cappella groups," says Schatz. "We want our lyrics to be as good as any lyrics that were written. We have to have stage presence that is as good as any theater group. And, of course, we have to have our drag be interesting. Those four things are a lot of work." ▼



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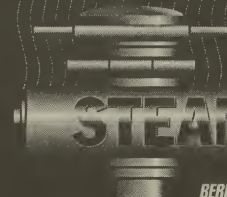
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The Sicks also perform this summer in:

Boston — June 3, *Pride Block Party* benefit for AIDS Action

Chicago — canceled

Denver — June 22, *Laughing with Pride III*

Provincetown — July 4 through Labor Day at Tropical Joe's

St. Petersburg — June 16, *Gay Pride*, Suncoast Hotel & Resort

Washington, DC — June 10, *Capital Pride*, on Pennsylvania Avenue ▼

Knockout comix

◀ Arts cover

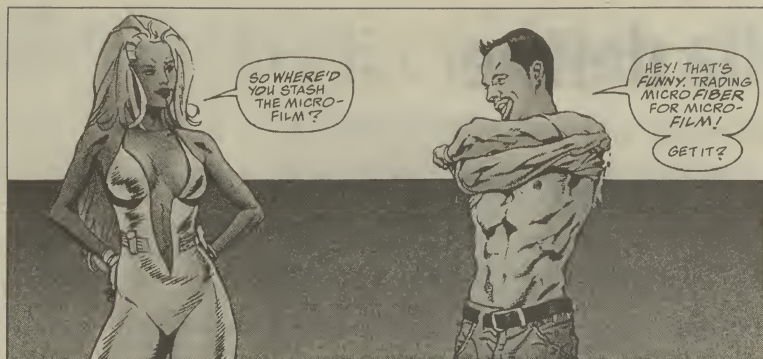
until now has never published a title with "a lot of action and a lot of humor, and a lot of cloak-and-dagger and a lot of bouncy-bouncy," as Rodi smilingly describes it. Most other mags deal with superheroes, and there's the odd foray into science fiction, the supernatural or hard-boiled crime dramas. But *Knockout* is putting the comic back in comic book, poking fun at the conventions of spy thrillers, and in the process, at itself.

Though a handful of comics from the industry's #1 publisher might flirt with sex here and there, none have embraced the pleasures of the flesh as unabashedly as this one. While other comics are pushing boundaries around violence, *Knockout* is doing it with sex. Far more than a martial arts expert, our biracial hero will happily utilize her priapism-inducing sex appeal and "highly volatile tantric techniques" to get the best of the bad guys. And Go-Go is even more brash with his sexuality than the cooler-headed Angela.

It's a trait already spiking debate on the message boards at DC Comics' website, where most posters (gay and straight), hip to the tongue-in-cheek tone, are happy to meet such an unapologetic horndog as Go-Go. A few, however, have accused the comic of perpetuating stereotypes. One clueless reader even accused Rodi of being a homophobic straight man with no gay friends — to which Rodi responded, "Who you callin' straight, jacko?"

Princess talk

Though he's been reading comic books since he was a kid,



Gay blade Go-Go Fiasco hides the secret microfilm in a very safe place, in *Codename: Knockout*.

the 44-year-old Chicagoan only recently began writing them. Rodi's career as an author is happily defined by a string of successful novels, including *Fag Hag* and *Closet Case*. His newest, *Bitch Goddess*, will be out in 2002. One glimpse into this future came in 1994, with Rodi's farcical tome, *What They Did to Princess Paragon*, in which a gay cartoonist turns a Wonder Woman-esque icon into a lesbian to spike her market share. In the "odd synchronicities" file of life, Rodi got his start in the comics field two years ago through his friend Phil Jimenez, a gay writer/artist currently steering DC's *Wonder Woman* title to new heights of popularity.

"I owe my career in comics to Phil," Rodi says. "He invited me to write a gay romance story for *Heart Throbs* [a romance anthology], and I thought it would be a hoot." That eight-page short ultimately led to *Codename: Knockout*, a gig Rodi believes he was of-

fered because of his sense of humor and his flair for dialogue. "Also, I think [my editor] liked the idea of having a gay writer do a 'bad-girl book,'" he says. "If you're

going to do a Vertigo book, you have to have a little bit of a subversive element, and I think that was it."

So, with ample wit and intelli-

Contact

◀ page 36

other diners, and even the dessert cart. It's a delightfully bittersweet saga that is acted with ominous effectiveness by Adam Dannheisser and danced exquisitely by Meg Howrey.

What Howrey doesn't have that Karen Ziemba, her Broadway counterpart, possesses is an expressive personality to complement her dancing skills. Not a big problem, but it does take some edge off the piece.

That's also true in the final segment, which fills out all of the second act. The glamorously tall Holly Cruikshank doesn't quite

project the real-life allure (or the briefly required acting skills) of Deborah Yates as the Girl the Yellow Dress. This mysterious icon provides salvation for a suicidal advertising executive (well-played by Alan Campbell) who stumbles into a hip swing-dance club on a particularly pivotal night.

It is here that Stroman really gets to cut loose, creating a phantasmagoria of dance that at first repels and then ensnares the troubled adman. It also provides the happy ending that we have been

teased with and then denied at the end of first act.

Stroman, who also has *The Producers* and *The Music Man* running on Broadway, is the best thing to happen to musicals in years. She's a beguiling master of the form, and *Contact* lets her redefine the form on her own terms. ▼

Contact will run at the Curran Theatre through June 24. Tickets are \$37-\$80. Call 551-2000.

Operatic CDs

◀ page 38

before her, was warm and full on the bottom, and solid without being steely on top. But of the two sopranos, only Farrell brought to Wagner the same kind of sensual fullness that another great soprano, Leontyne Price, brought to Verdi. Farrell may not have brought to Isolde's Liebestod the wealth of nuance and ecstatic passion that the 42-year-old Lotte Lehmann conveyed in her famed 1930 recording of the scene, but only Farrell had a voice big enough to allow her to convinc-

ingly perform the music live with a full orchestra.

La Farrell made lamentably few opera recordings. If you supplement this disc with her 1970 live recording discussed above, plus the pairing of her 1961 studio performances of the *Götterdämmerung* Immolation Scene and five *Wesendonck* Lieder with her 1967 recording of the Liebestod, all with Lenny conducting the NY Philharmonic (Sony Royal Edition No. 100), I believe you'll have all of her available Wagner recordings. Turn off the lights, turn up the volume, and experience a voice that could carry all the way to Valhalla. ▼

FILM

Boys will be girls



El Rio kicks off its season of presenting outdoor screenings this summer with a showing of *Ma Vie en Rose*, Alain Berliner's tale of young Ludovic (Georges du Fresne, pictured), a boy who desperately wants to be a girl, and the people who love him. Candy-colored fantasy sequences distinguish this 1997 film, in French with English subtitles. Tuesday, June 5: 6:30-8 p.m. free BBQ; screening at sunset, approx. 8:30 p.m. El Rio bar, 3158 Mission St. \$7. Dress warmly. Info: (415) 282-3325. ▼

BOOKS

Tales of that other city

by Jim Nawrocki

In the City of Shy Hunters; by Tom Spanbauer, Grove Press \$26

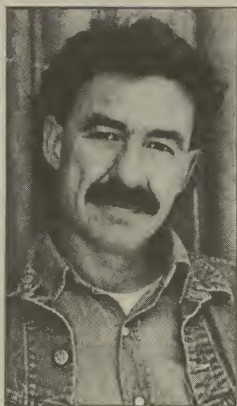
In the City of Shy Hunters is a large, sprawling novel, the third from Tom Spanbauer, whose last work was the highly-praised *The Man Who Fell in Love With the Moon*. The city referred to in the title of Spanbauer's latest novel is New York City, specifically the New York City of the 1980s. It is the dawn of the age of AIDS, and Will Parker, a shy, somewhat insecure young man who is struggling with his sexuality, and trying to come to terms with his past, arrives there to start a new life.

Almost immediately after landing at La Guardia from Wyoming, Will is set upon by a quirky yet well-meaning band of characters who give him a ride in their van, and in so doing become his first new friends in his new city. These include True Shot, a kind of Native American wannabe, and True Shot's cohort Ruby, a young transvestite. Their

arrival in Will's life is the first of many seemingly improbable but nevertheless life-changing events that befall Will as he makes his way in the Big Apple.

Upon moving into his new apartment, Will meets his upstairs neighbor Rose, a six-foot five-inch African-American drag queen and performance artist who becomes an object of immediate fascination for Will, and eventually, a love interest. Along the way, Will interacts with an assortment of many other colorful characters. These include his neighbor Mrs. Lupino, who is something of a crazy-woman-down-the-hall caricature, and the assorted waiters and cooks and bartenders at the trendy café where he works. In the City of Shy Hunters is a richly populated novel, woven through with the strands of many stories, it seems, and realized with a level of detail that helps anchor it as a 1980s period piece.

In addition to taking us back to the 1980s, Spanbauer also takes us back, in a series of flashbacks, to Will's less-than-conventional childhood in 1960s Idaho. Will



Author Tom Spanbauer

comes from a classic textbook dysfunctional family: his mother is afraid of and unwilling to acknowledge the incestuous relationship between Will's overbearing father and his sister Bobbie. Will, meanwhile, is at once tormented and enraptured by his

love for his best friend, a handsome Native American boy named Charlie 2 Moons. Together, Will, Charlie and Bobbie form a kind of Three Musketeers relationship of shared secrets and all-for-one, one-for-all camaraderie. This relationship blossoms into a strange sexual union among the three, a union that includes an incestuous encounter between Will and his sister. Eventually, it culminates in tragedy and betrayal. When Will finally arrives in New York, he carries with him unresolved feelings of guilt that send him on a quest for Charlie 2 Moons, who preceded him to the city.

The dark side

As if all of these psychic struggles weren't enough, Will and his friends have to contend with AIDS, which takes hold in the community and begins to claim its many victims. References to the Reagan Administration, Rock Hudson's death and other AIDS hallmarks remind us of the early controversies and protests engendered by the arrival of the "gay plague." Spanbauer becomes overtly political about the epidemic through Rose, whose jeremiads about racism, classism and the government's ineffectual AIDS policies sound downright preachy at times. When Rose himself becomes sick, his death becomes an almost improbable bit of theater and spectacle.

Will's kinship with a variety of street people and drug users also allows Spanbauer to examine another dark side of the "booming '80s" — the plight of the poor and homeless. Will and his friends fre-

quent Tompkins Square Park, which has become a large homeless encampment and later figures in a climactic struggle between the police and the legions of the disenfranchised who live there. At one point, in a compare-and-contrast exercise that seems somewhat contrived and forced, Will walks through the dark park at night with the well-heeled parents of one of his coworkers. Here they just happen to bump into Ruby, considerably worse for the wear, and all narrowly avoid a confrontation with the police.

Spanbauer seems to rely heavily on *deus ex machina* plot turns and sometimes all-too-blatant symbolism. The late-night walk through the park is one example. Another is the tyrannical cop who patrols Tompkins Square Park and who has incurred the wrath of Rose and many others — his name, which is often referenced, is Richard White. Spanbauer also employs a number of stylistic devices, including the mantra-like repetition of certain symbolic stock phrases, that give the novel a strange, *déjà vu*-like quality.

Spanbauer does a good job of evoking the feel and mood of gay New York in the 1980s, and he peoples his novel with a memorable array of characters, some of them more fleshed out than others. Spanning a five-year period from 1983 to 1988, and taking on such weighty issues as AIDS, the economic disparities of the Reagan years, incest and lost love, *In the City of Shy Hunters* is an ambitious novel. One wonders, though, if Spanbauer hasn't taken on too much. ▼

White elephant

by Robert Julian

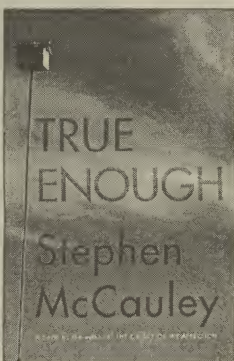
True Enough by Stephen McCauley; Simon and Schuster, \$24

Boston author Stephen McCauley apparently likes to write about the intersecting lives of gay and straight Americans. His gay-themed second novel, *The Object of My Affection*, was made into a charming and heart-warming film starring Jennifer Aniston. With his fourth novel, *True Enough*, McCauley forges another gay/straight alliance between a Manhattan biographer (Desmond) and a 40-year-old married PBS television producer (Jane), whose lives cross when Desmond takes a temporary teaching job in Boston at a university where Jane's husband teaches.

Desmond has one published biography and a second stalled effort that just won't come together. There are also tensions between him and his lover, Russell, that are equally difficult to resolve. Mean-

while, in Boston, Jane is unfulfilled in her marriage, and her career is in neutral. When Jane and Desmond join forces, the superficial roadblocks to success are resolved by a joint project initiated for her PBS station. This highly commendable premise is unfortunately pummeled into a mound of literary excrement by McCauley's writing, which, at its very best, is mildly annoying.

McCauley is one of those writers who likes to tell readers about the jewelry selection of a woman eating lunch at a table next to his main characters. He will reveal her thought process, her attitude toward herself, and her fashion sensibility; then she will disappear and never be referenced again. A certain amount of this illuminates the *mise en scene* and enriches a story. But McCauley slathers meaningless details across each page, creating extraordinary tedium at every turn and slowing down the progression of the narrative. Then there are his main characters.



Both Desmond and Jane are exceptionally bright, educated urban professionals who are given to gross immaturity and/or completely neurotic behavior. They are such unlikeable twits, it quickly becomes impossible to care what happens in their lives. McCauley does a skillful job of weaving their stories together, but who cares? *True Enough* is an astounding waste of time. If it arrives on your doorstep as a gift, put it away immediately and hold it for your next White Elephant sale. ▼



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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Coming events

It's times like these — crazy busy — that drive events-calendar editors to distraction. I spent my holiday vacation in meditation at Esalen Institute, perched on the dramatic cliffs of Big Sur, clearing my mind in anticipation of a couple months' of insanity as our little queer universe explodes with arts and cultural festivals.

You'll find most if not all the events of this week's National Queer Arts Festival (NQAf) listed opposite. In this space let me mention a few things coming up as our city's most multifaceted, multicultural arts festival continues into the weeks ahead.

While dance is integral to all aspects of the NQAf, it takes center stage with the 5th anniversary celebration of the SF Lesbian and Gay Dance Festival, which happens in two parts at Dance Mission Theater (3316 24th St. @ Mission). First off, "Queer Dance: Sex and Comedy" (June 15-17 at 8pm) taps the choreographic skills of Laura Bernasconi, Tara Brandel/Mna Rua, Sara Sean Dorsey, Kim Epifano, Michelle Ito, Julie Kane/Mercy Sidbury, Jared Kaplan/Gabriel Todd, and KT Nelson/Brian Fisher. This site-specific performance offers what the organizers term "a fanciful collage about the genderqueer body, fantasy and flight attendants, the importance of sex, grief and transformation, extreme states that push the mind and body (touching the limits of existence), wild satire, and the power of a quiet, erotic adagio."

Weekends two and three of the dance fest showcase "Moveable Feast" (June 22 & 24; June 29-July 1), commissioned works by six artists, each 15-20 minutes in length. Featured will be Jesselito Bie/Steamroller's latest site-specific work, "FLAUNT," which turns the 24th St. BART station plaza into a large outdoor stage/runway; four duets and a quintet by Remy Charlip (June 22 & 24 only); a collaborative piece by Sue Roginsky and Stephanie Schaaf, "Dust"; Yannis Adoniotou's Kunst-Stoffy; Krissy Keefe's Dance Brigade, and Anne Bluthenthal and guests. Tickets for these events range \$15-\$20. Phone 273-4633.

Following his hugely successful appearance in Erling Wold's opera *Queer*, Trauma Flintstone returns to his roots in "A Return to the Caffè Cino, Parts I (June 9) and II (June 14), a reprising of his AIRspace program. The show, which takes place at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, features Flintstone in a variety of "pre-Stonewall" theater pieces, including (in Part I) "The Madness of Lady Bright" by Lanford Wilson, and "Bittersweet Eros," a one-act travesty based on Terrence McNally's play "Sweet Eros." With Steven LeMay. Part II includes "Georgie Porgie" by George Birnima, and "What Is Making Gilda So Gray?" by Tom Eyen. With David Ortmann. ▼

For a complete listing of National Queer Arts Festival events, log on to www.queerculturalcenter.org. Phone 552-7709.

Mary Armentrout explores
*The Psychopathology
of Everyday Life*
at Dance Mission
Theater.
See Friday



Fri

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

More than 200 K-5 students from this multicultural, civil-rights-based, alternative school will participate in the unveiling of "Raven Brings Light," a huge mural painted in acrylics on seven wood panels that span 28-feet wide and 8-feet high. For this dedication, the piece will be installed in the schoolyard at Collingwood and 19th St. The project is the culmination of a 9-month residency for artist Tiffany Graham and students at the school, funded by the California Arts Council. The Native American theme was selected for its spirit of hope. Free. 2pm. Collingwood and 19th streets.

Women's Building

Opening night gala: "National Queer Arts Festival 2001," featuring readings by internationally acclaimed authors Alice Walker, Dorothy Allison, and Jewelle Gomez. A benefit for the QCC Lesbian Writer's Fund. \$25-\$50 sliding. 8pm. 3543 18th St. (at Valencia). Tix: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

National Queer Arts Festival presents the Joe Goode Performance Group in "What the Body Knows," choreographer Goode's newest work, to be staged along with "Take Place" and "Hapless." Featuring dancers Goode, Liz Burritt, Marc Morozumi, Jennifer Cook, Felipe Barrueto-Cabello, Marit Brook-Kothlow, Paul Benney, and

Vong Phrommla. \$20, \$25, \$30. 8pm. Thru June 3. YBCA Theater, 700 Howard St. (at 3rd St.). Info/tix: 552-7709; www.queerculturalcenter.org

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AIRspace artist-in-residence Stephen Pelton Dance Theater presents a workshop production of "When October Goes..." which uses sound movement, and images from the world of baseball to look at issues of gender, competition, wistfulness, Americana and aging. Plus excerpts from "The Hurdy Gurdy Man," a portrayal of Adolf Hitler. Fol-

lowed by discussion with audience. \$5-\$10 sliding (NO-TAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402.

Dance Mission Theater

Mary Armentrout Dance Theater presents "The Psychopathology of Everyday Life," a work for five dancers with an original sound score and video. The piece explores how often when we say one thing, our body says another. Plus short works by Merlin Coleman, Alma Cunningham, Christy Funsch, and Kristin Lemberg (RK Corral). 8pm. Also on June 2, 8 & 9. 3316 24th St. (at Mission St.).

Tix/info: (510) 845-8604.

CELLspace

Soundlab presents "World Remix," a new world-music series, tonight featuring The Ali Khan Band (Qawwali, jazz fusion, rap, and Bhangra), with Mix Tape From Mars (extreme vocal techniques w/throat singing, didjeridu, and beat box), and Jou Jour (Balkan, Appalachian, Italian and Greek songs — goofy int'l folk jazz). \$12-\$15 sliding. 8:30pm. 2050 Bryant St. (at 18th St.). Tix/info: 430-1269, ext. 2126; www.cell-space.org

Theatre on the Square

Extended run: "Dirty Blonde," the show reviewers rave about, centering on two New York loners-turned-lovers who share an obsession with voluptuous stage and film icon Mae West. Written by Claudia Shear and conceived by Shear and director James Lapine. \$30-\$50. 8pm Tue., Wed., Thu.; 8:30pm Fri.; 3pm & 8:30pm Sat.; 3pm & 7pm Sun. Thru July 29. 450 Post St. Tix/info: 433-9500; www.theatreonthesquare.com

SF Public Library

"Share the Thrill. Return the Books!" Amnesty has been declared for 15 days for those holding overdue books. Return them in good condition without penalty. Patrons encouraged to share their stories about why their books are overdue. Info: 557-4277.

Thick House

Encore Theatre Company, under the artistic direction of Lisa Steindler (co-producer of Leigh Fondakowski's "I Think I Like Girls"), presents a showcase of new works-in-progress over the course of a week. Tonight: "Circling the Drain" by playwright Dan Basila, directed by Dana Edel. \$10. 8pm. Also on 6/3, 6/7, & 6/8, plus 6/2 at 9:30pm. Info: 401-8081.

Luna Sea Women's Gallery

Opening reception: "Sodom," an exhibition of color photographs by Farika. The images depict "a land of sin, filth, and true bacchanalia. Complete and utter decadence. A place of decay and debauchery, of revelry and amusement. A feast, if you will. A party that offends." Free. 7-10pm. 2940 16th St. Info: www.farika.com

St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

The Music Theater Collective, a nonprofit consortium of Bay Area composers of opera and musical theater, presents "A

World of Song," a recital of songs and opera arias by local composers. \$10. 8pm. 16th St. & Dolores (across from Mission Dolores). Info: 863-6371; www.musictheatercollective.org

Escape from New York Pizza (downtown)

Marc Hofstadter and Leonard Cirino read their poetry in a benefit for the SF AIDS Foundation. \$5. 7:30pm. 333 Bush St. (at Montgomery). Info: www.poetryandpizza.homestead.com

Club Townsend

Page Hodel spins fierce hip-hop & house at "Club Q," a monthly dance party for women. Featuring a delicious performance by the Club Q Dancers. \$12. 9pm-3am. 177 Townsend St.

Sat

Mission Cultural Center

Queer Latino Art Festival presents the opening reception of "QueLaCo Visual Art Exhibition," curated by Ester Hernandez and Antonio Escalante, featuring a variety of work by emerging and established artists representing 25 years of Latino visual art. \$5. 7-9pm. Info: 648-3702; www.QueLaCo.org

Women's Building

National Queer Arts Festival presents "Plays of Passion/Passion Plays," a screening of five short films ("Next," "Screen Play," "Rigoletto," "Achilles," and "Gilbert and Sullivan") and discussion with Barry Purves, contemporary master of puppet animation. He will discuss how his identity as a gay man has informed his work. \$15. 7pm. 3543 18th St. (at Valencia). Tix/info: www.queerculturalcenter.org

Women's Building

National Queer Arts Festival presents "Greatest Spits" CD release party, featuring spoken word performances by a dozen artists from past Sister Spit tours. \$7-\$10 sliding. 9:30pm. 3543 18th St. (at Valencia). Tix/info: www.queerculturalcenter.org

Brava Theater Center

"Queeriosity," a night of youth unity and celebrations of queer voices," featuring DJs, spoken word, live art, youth empowerment, family, mind, body, spirit. Free. 7-11pm. 2781 24th St. Info: 661-6427.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

In concert: "Forever Plaid," the 1950s-style revue by Stuart Ross, directed by Earl Weaver. This goofy piece centers on four young, eager guys singing '50s pop songs in close harmony and squabbling boyishly over the smallest intonations. \$16-\$32. 8pm (2pm Sun.). Thru July 8. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcsf.org

Club 220

Special sneak preview and benefit: "Debauchery," a radical, uncensored dyke movie in the making. Sneak peeks of live scenes from the film; live dyke sex theatre; dance to hot, audible-art by Androgynous Androids; pillage eXXtra raunchy garage sale; win toys in a dirty raffle; play in dark corners; envy costumes by The Moral Minority, Inc. (Club Rubbish). Strict slut attire required (fetish; latex, and freaky). \$12-\$25 sliding. Doors open 9pm; show at 10:30pm; dancing till 2am. 220 Jones St. (at Eddy/Turk). Info: debauchery_2000@hotmail.com



Take a peek at *Debauchery* at Club 220. See Saturday.

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Germany's Stefan Müller is International Mr. Leather 2001

by Mister Marcus

Before a cheering crowd of more than 2000 leather men and women, Stefan Müller, Mr. Bavaria Leather 2001, was chosen International Mr. Leather 2001 at Chicago's Congress Theater last Sunday night, May 27. The first runner-up was Mr. DC Eagle Darrell Moyers, and the second runner-up was Mr. San Francisco Leather Houston Davenport.

The word "diversity" best describes the body of prideful leather men who competed for the title. The field of 63 contestants included not only many U.S. leathermen, but a large foreign contingent. Scores of German, Dutch, Australian, British, Irish and Canadian men were much sought after; just listening to the dialogue in the main lobby was an exercise in on-the-job Berlitz training.

The coolish weather with intermittent showers made the Chicago climate ideal for wearing leather. All the bars and restaurants were jam-packed, and the Leather Mart took up two huge floors, featuring everything imaginable in leather, latex, chrome, jewelry and clothing. Leather mart honchos R.J. Chaffin and Bob Graves had a thriving bonanza on their hands.

Mama and her Boys were very much in evidence, as were 2002 Bare Chest Calendar cover men Doug and Peter.

The opening ceremonies took place on Friday night, and the preliminaries in the jock and speech categories occurred in the same ballroom on Saturday night. On stage throughout the weekend, emcees Joe Gallagher and Tom Stice lived up to their advance billing and kept each presentation going at a good clip. Their ques-



The winners in Chicago: 2nd runner up Houston Davenport; Int'l Ms. Leather 2001 Jo Blas; Int'l Mr. Leather 2001 Stefan Müller; and 1st runner-up Darrell Moyers.

tions to the contestants elicited gales of laughter from the audience.

Bill Stadt's stage crew were impeccable in executing the show, which was headlined by Thelma Houston, who had the crowd in a jubilant uproar with her "Don't Leave Me This Way" interpretation.

It was quite an adventure judging with Jill Carter, Thom Domkowski, Philip Rubin, Jim Raymond, Bob Pesce, Jack McGregor, Laurie Lane and Mike Taylor. The 16 hours of interviews proved a wrenching exercise in bare-it-all dialogue that elicited gales of laughter, much cheering for stances taken by the contestants, and at least 20 Kleenex boxes worth of tears.

The 20 finalists in the IML competition were: Dan Azevedo of Dallas, Bryant Berg of Salt Lake

City, Todd Cole of Baton Rouge, Miro Civin of Amsterdam, Jack Darnell of Anchorage, Houston Davenport of San Francisco, Tracy DeRoche of Palm Springs, Pete Fitz of Los Angeles, Liam Hogan of London, Matt LaMantia of Boston, Michael Marino of New York City, Rick Morris of Chattanooga, Darrell Moyers of Washington, DC, Stefan Müller of Nuremberg, Germany, Dan Newman of Cincinnati, Marc Rosenberg of Chicago, Chris Ross of San Francisco, Axel teschke of Berlin, Peter Theodoropolis of Toronto and Daniel Vandembark of Long Beach, California.

Parties galore

The IML 2001 weekend was chock full of parties all over the swank Palmer House, where the staff was extremely accommodating in all departments. The food was great throughout the establishment, and there was no

next page ►



Bazaar

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 31

Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) distribute funds from International Bear Rendezvous 2001 to Dolores St. Community Services, Home Care Companions and Lesbian & Gay Immigration Rights Task Force at 1930 in the Whitcomb Ballroom at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. For details email to Info@BOSF.org or call 415-541-5000.

Friday, June 1

Welcome home and thanks for a job well done for IML 2nd runner-up Houston Davenport, at the Powderhouse at 2100 tonight. No raffles, no entertainment, no puppet show. Just a celebration for our main leather man!

Weekend June 7-9

Southeast Leatherfest in Atlanta with workshops, vendor fair and contest selecting Southeast Mr. Drummer and Drummer Boy and International Master & slave, to name a few. Always a fun time at this noted leather bastion of the South.

The Potomac MC in Washington, D.C. stage the Mr. DC Drummer and DC Drummer Boy contest with a weekend chock full of events. The winners will go on to compete for the Mid-Atlantic Leather Drummer titles in July.

Saturday, June 9

Bay Area submissives have their monthly meeting

today from 1300-1500. For location and/or an invite call (415) 430-2150, Ext. 7848, or send an email to info@bayareasubmissives.org.

The Constantines MC beer/soda bust from 2500-1900 at the Lone Star Saloon for only \$7.

The Cal Eagles MC have a weekend run to Grass Valley for rafting, but no specifics at my deadline.

Wednesday, June 13

Spray and bray at Wet Wednesday tonight at 933 Harrison St. Doors open between 2000 and 200. Call them at 863-HEAD.

Weekend, June 16-17

Gay Pride in Los Angeles, with scores of events and the parade on Sunday. Many other cities around the country will have their parades as well.

Saturday, June 16

One of Manhattan's biggest events, it's the 18th annual Leather Pride Night at The Roxy, 515 West 18th St., with a mammoth auction that annually raises thousands.

Sunday, June 17

In New York, GMSMA presents the 5th annual Folsom Street East street fair at Washington & West 13th St. The theme this year: "Meat." Some 10,000 people showed up last year, and they expect a bigger crowd this year.

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Dance instruction 9 - 9:30 pm

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JUNE 3RD 6PM-11PM

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Dance instruction 6 - 7:30 pm

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Sundance Saloon is a project of the nonprofit Sundance Association for Country-Western Dancing

Goodbye to the Giraffe

by Sweet Lips

Lift up your long necks and have your next toast to the Giraffe Video Lounge, a Polk Street institution for over 20 years. Alas, the old bar is closing its doors as another chapter for the gay history books has ended. Among the many bartenders and patrons we will miss in this changing neighborhood, Lips would like to say thanks for the memories to Kenner, Nooch, the one and only Stern, and a veteran Giraffe bartender for umpteen years, the gorgeous and gregarious Charlie Berlanga. Good luck to all of you in the future. Now, with your roost upset, Bob G., I guess this means I'll be seeing more of you up at the 'Vous! Watch out! Manager David Kapp will provide the boxing gloves, and Robbie will be taking bets on the side.

L. James is putting together another homo-historical display, this time with the Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Historical Society of Northern California. His interest in preserving the Polk-strasse past has led him to pitch in with George Banda in arranging a display of the old Tavern Guild memorabilia. Paul Gabriel of the Historical Society is directing this project, in which several community groups learn from museum professionals to keep and present their own history. *Making a Case for History* opens today, May 31, and runs through June 21 in the lobby of the Yerba Buena Center of the Arts Theatre. Then it will be shown at the Gay Pride Celebration in the Civic Center Sat.-Sun., June 23-24. Do make sure you see



Gary Hotch from LA relaxes at the Giraffe, circa 1990.

these display cases, which feature the MCC, the Women's Building and other groups.

As a part of the Historical Society's ongoing preservations, interviews are conducted with members of the gay community to get their viewpoint on ancient gay times. Paul Gabriel has interviewed many of my old friends, and guess what? Yours Truly is up next. Lips is, after all, the oldest

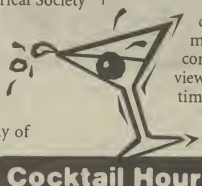
bartender in San Francisco, and has seen and done many men, I mean things. Let's hope Gabriel has a fast hand, because I have so much more to say than I can fit in my editor-condensed columns! I understand from L. James that Paul is (in his words) "fucking hot," so I do look forward to my private tête à tête. Don't worry, Greta Grass, I won't exaggerate anything. You know only the god-

awful honest truth comes from these Lips.

Cockatielia's show at the 'Vous is packing them in. It's wild and untamed and almost out of control. During the last show, in her final SF performance, Gilda Lily whipped the crowd with a giant snake, and regular Karen Kill picked up a potted palm and swung it madly on stage. Wear your helmets when 'Til Friday annihilates the Club this Friday, June 1 with an all-live show — no lip-synching! at 10:30 p.m. and Midnight. You can catch this crazy act every other Friday night.

Sunday, June 3, the Men of Exotica strip down to barely nothing at the Club R-V at 7 p.m. No cover charge. Popular Nikko has returned to the pack and is looking as packed as ever.

Some happy birthdays this month to Mr. Bellpepper, Michael Valdez, Bruce of Reflections, Jesse (and happy anniversary to you and Travis, too!) and the effervescent Gladys "Day" Bumps. ▼



Cocktail Hour

Out There

◀ page 30

"but he welcomes openly gay candidates in the party." This is the kind of constipated individual AS feels grateful to for the tiniest scrap of condescension.

AS finds there is no anecdote to dig up, indeed no outward signs of life in his macrocephalic chum: Hague's been too timid to have a private life. "Was this the reason I was now a journalist and he was a politician? Was it because I'd decided to have a real, sprawling, embarrassing life, crowded with incident — and he had been forced to avoid one?"

Embarrassing is exactly the word for this whole suck-up, and AS, like his subject, is considerably less fascinating than he thinks. Here is the most revealing passage in the long, awful tongue-bath: "The *Tory Daily Telegraph* commissioned a poll asking people whether they thought Hague was 'a bit of a wally' — a slightly dated slang term for dork. Sixty-six percent said yes."

States of the union

Now that the brilliant 3rd edition of *The Sopranos* is over, OT wants to thank our benefactors, who taped every episode and passed them around the office. We also admit to having had a season-

long crush on toothsome actor Jason Cerbone, who played young Jackie Jr. Our *amour fou* was despite the fact that (or perhaps because) J. Jr. was beautiful, dangerous and doomed. Now we hear that Cerbone is having a hot and heavy affair in real life with actress Jamie-Lynn Sigler, who played his girlfriend, Tony's daughter Meadow. All we can say is, Cerbone's lovin' is probably worth living in Jersey for.

Now let us Hail fair Vermont: first state to recognize gay unions, great state to wrest the US Senate out of the clutches of evil Majority Leader Trent Lott. Time to stock up on maple syrup! Why aren't we all living in Montpelier? ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

scrumping of booze when it came to "adult" beverages. The only flaw was the dysfunctional elevators.

The Maple Leaf Party, the ABW party, the All California Party, tributes to Tony DeBlase, the Onyx Dance Extravaganza, the Deaf Leather Benefit, the Boot Black Fundraiser, the Mid-Atlantic Leather Blast, and the San Francisco Extravaganza — all were highlights in a dazzling display of celebration such as only leather people can create.

The Mr Ebony in Leather contest on Thursday night at the world-famous Cell Block was standing room only, but Patti Brown's staff managed to keep it together as three men vied for the

title which was won by the very-friendly Hillary.

Packsen Burrell won the International Boot Black title, vying with five other men for the honor. Spiffy boots were evident throughout the weekend.

International Mr. Leather 2001 was another smashing success, due in large part to the expertise of seasoned and hard-working IML staff and volunteers. They went out of their way to make things smooth for everyone.

Part of the ceremony on Sunday night, included the dashing first-ever IML (1979) David Kloss announcing the IML 2002 judges. Potential contenders are hereby advised that IML 2002 will be judged by former International Mr. Drummer Hervé Bernard; former IML Pat Baille; Emmy and Ace-nominated TV producer

and director and former Mr DC Eagle Wayne Nesbitt; former International Mr. Drummer Brian Dawson; former American Leather Boy Jerry Acosta; Vice Chair of the Ottawa Knights John Purdie of Ottawa, Canada; and your's truly. It should make for an interesting experience, indeed.

Know now that IML 2002 will move back to the Hyatt Hotel on wacker Drive, so make your plans now.

I was gone from San Francisco for the entire weekend, but be reminded that tickets are now on sale for the Phoenix Uniform Club's 10th Annual Uniform & Leather Ball, to be held on June 22 in the Green Room. They can be had for \$50 at Daddy's, Image Leather, Worn Out West, Mister S, and Stompers in SF, and at Leather Masters in San Jose. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

~Club Universe 4/21/01~
To the guys that helped me in the coat check line around 3 or 4 in the morning when I fainted. Please call for "Thank you!" ☎ 71223

~Glen Park Bart 4/26~
7:30 pm. You, handsome 30s AM, standing across the street. Me: 40s GWM, short blond hair, crossing street with friend. You held my admiring gaze. Can we meet? ☎ 71248

Th 4/26 SFAF Dinner, Ft Mason Met in bathroom, talked about "20". Your: beautiful Asian man at friend's table. Me: White man trying his tie. Coffee? Dinner? ☎ 71249

Sat 4/28, "Red Grill" 8'ish
Saw you in the lounge, then dining room, me at corner table with 2 friends. Couldn't take my eyes off you. Would love to make you smile again. ☎ 71268

"Castro Community T-Shirt"
Badlands Fri. 4/27, AM in white sleeveless t-shirt wanted to talk. Was it wishful thinking, or did you want to talk to me too? I'm what you've been wanting. ☎ 71269

5/6 Starbucks@ Church & Market
11:30am, we were buying drinks, too shy to talk. You, cute Asian with silver ring on right hand. Me: White with yellow t-shirt, exchanged glances even after I left. Call. ☎ 71270

•Jeremy, Sunday April 29~
Enjoyed talking with you at "Pasta Pomodoro". I was too shy to ask for your number. Give me a second chance? ☎ 71271

Ned! ~Sundance Saloon~ May 6th
Hello Ned, tried to build-up enough courage to ask you to dance but you left early. Very goodlooking, masculine, nice guy here. Would love to hear from you. ☎ 71272

'Jason M.' From 'Art C.'
Sorry, I missed you but thanks for stopping by Weeds. 4/25. You were cut off before you left your ph#. Please try again. Love to see you and catch-up. ☎ 71273

~Steamworks Sun 5-6~
You tall Asian, glasses. Me: tad shorter, close cropped hair, mustache. Kissed in back. I was oral. Smiled at each other later. Can we do it again? ☎ 71301

N Judah @ Church Weekends 8am
You: AM departing train, Me: WM brown hair & glasses embarking train. We often smile & wave. Would you like to meet for coffee? ☎ 71302

Commonwealth Club ~Alexander~
The Great on 5/17. You admired my turquoise ring and I admired you. Had a nice talk and would like to talk more w/ dinner or movie. ☎ 71320

N Judah@Church St. Weekdays 8am
You: am departing train, Me: WM brown hair & glasses embarking train. We used to smile & wave often. Would like to meet sometime? ☎ 71321

Dolores Prk & Bay To Breakers!
2 days in a row, I couldn't take my eyes off you! You- yellow shorts (5/19) then red shorts (5/20). Me- tall, glasses, baseball cap. Let's finally talk. ☎ 71322

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

GWM Seeks Goodlooking Male For...
Friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 41, slim trim and fit. Like the outdoors, quiet, romantic evenings at home, loving one another and building a life together. "Let's make it happen!" ☎ 71280

•Rugged Asian*
Masculine, dominant, warm hearted, smooth, athletic Asian, 53, 5'8", 155 seeks clean shaven, lean or muscular, smooth WM for adventurous, companion or more. Enjoy working out, sports, hiking, films, arts and you? S 71224

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71225

"Looking For A Friend!"
To spend quality time together, travel, talking, hug & kisses. I am Asian 65 5'9", 150lbs. Please be under 40, trim or muscular, caring & very good looking. Thanks. ☎ 71226

~Tops-R-Us!~
Big-Dick Italian top likes the camaraderie of being with other top men. Need a buddy to "Hang", cruise, stroke, travel, etc? Age, race, looks not important. Masculine in-shape men only! ☎ 71227

•Handsome Young Russian*
Is looking for other cute and intelligent Russian or European boys in their 20's or 30's only. You won't be disappointed and I'm also very faithful. All calls are returned. ☎ 71228

Asian 4 Friendship Or More...
Goodlooking GAM 30, 5'8", slim, masculine, HIV- with nice personality seeks similar goodlooking masculine GWM 45 or younger for dating, romance, LTR. ☎ 71229

"HIV+"
Cocktail & bullshit free. 40, 6' 170lbs, br/bl, w/big fat cut one, looking for another. ☎ 71230

Regular Guy Seeks Buddy+ More!
Masculine WPM outside the scene, tall fit goodlooking, 51, active outdoor and varied indoor interests seeks similar 45-55 for serious relationship. Must be HIV neg. N/S, N/D. ☎ 71250

•Hairly Top*
G/BI WM wanted. Me: 150# hairless GWM mid 40, 7'cut into most interest. Great for fuck buddy. ☎ 71251

HIV+GBM SKS GWM Dominant Top
6ft 175, 38 masculine but submissive. Prefer affectionate small build. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 71252

"Muscular Monogamous Man!"
Into TV, pop culture, dancing, cooking, exercise, tit play/body worship; seeks muscular GM for S.F. dates. I'm Asian, young 51, 5'7", 150#, HIV-neg. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 71253

~That Caribbean Touch!~
Spanish man raised in the Spanish Caribbean seeks other GM for sex and fun. I am a top, 5'8", 155#, well endowed, salt and pepper hair, into yoga and jogging. Very political progressive avid reader, financially independent, good cook and love to travel. Into GWM as well as Latin Americans and Europeans. HIV+, but very HIV+ sensitive. ☎ 71274

•Mulatto Guy Intelligent*
Educated, real good looking, seeks guys for a relationship for fun and good times. ☎ 71275

VGL Latino "Boy" ISO Hot "Daddy!"
Me: 5'7", 135#, HIV+, goatee, fun and romantic. You: GWM, 40-55, goodlooking, financially secure. Dad type ISO. Please Call! ☎ 71276

POZ GBM ISO Vers GWM Bottom
6ft, 180lbs. ISO affectionate/submissive GWM/GLM. Prefer slim, short, small build and smooth. ☎ 71277

"Goodlooking Masculine Rugged!"
Man looking for another for deep friendship and romance. I am good hearted, intelligent, N/S, N/D, bottom. I like rugged hairy tops with good hearts and nice cock. ☎ 71278

~Suck Buddy~
Uncut GWM 5'-10", 165#, 7", large balls, HIV-, disease free, non smoker, ISO regular suck buddy, White, Latino, Asian, North Bay plus. ☎ 71279

•Friends, Friends, Friends, Help!
Partner & friends have ahh passed. Looking for buddies to do things with. Can be into many different things. Need someone to share time with. ☎ 71281

"Italian Guys I Am Looking!"
For Italian men who are hung or good looking or just plain Italian guys for sex, fun or relationship. ☎ 71282

•Long Big Clean & Uncut~
Available for White butt. Only I'm 36yrs old. 5'7", long brown hair, lean, sexy and horny. All calls will be returned. ☎ 71303

"Ideal Match..."
For Scorpio are Pisces. GWM late 40, well educated, honest, kind, pisces, bottom is waiting for you, scorpio. Let's make our life happiest in the world; cause LOVE is EVERYTHING!! ☎ 71304

Live In Europe
With attractive, masculine professional. You are younger, trim, fun loving guy looking for adventure and hot times. ☎ 71305

34 White Bottom ISO Darkest Top
5'11", 195. Very muscular and masculine seeking top who likes to be very dominant. Role playing etc is a big plus! ☎ 71306

"Young Boy!"
You: Over 60, real gentleman, with tender fingers. Me: young, shy boy, like massage, sport, history. ☎ 71307

Palo Alto GAM 45 5'11" 185 36w
ISO a friend under 46 with average cock for me to suck w/ro recip... on a reg basis. Have car will come to you. ☎ 71308

I'm 29yrs. "Latino!"
29w,31l, 145wt., 5'7"ht. HIV+. You btwn 25-45 hairy chest & legs in good shape and well off. ☎ 71309

~Cancer Survivor!~
36, 6', 180, br/br attractive, well-adjusted, colon cancer surviving (ileostomy), orally fixated gym going GWM with great attitude for life. Seek attractive, well-adjusted WM for dating. ☎ 71310

"I Want You The Right Way!!"
GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beely, hot hips ++. ☎ 71311

ISO HIV+ Little Brother 38yr
175# 6'2" looking for skinny White boy for rough housing & tenderness. No drugs, smoke ok. ☎ 71323

6'4" Very Attractive Thin Model
Boy ISO smart, Athletic, Stylish. Straight Acting boys, 18-25. Me, HIV- fun, Artist, straight acting, hung. Looking for versatile/bottom for some fun. I like White boys. No loco's. ☎ 71324

~Life Is A Banquet~
GBM HIV- lean masc toned, eager to explore life, you GM 25-40 relationship inclined. Likes music, gym, conversation, theatre, deep kissing, versatile. I'm no chicken but this bird is still succulent. Let the feast begin. ☎ 71325

HIV+ Bottom Seeks SF Top
52, 5'6", 140 with sp, brn eyes. Honest, grounded w/sense of humor about life. Open to any relationship. Looking for good communicator. Prefer 40-58 taller HIV+ in-shape. ☎ 71326

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Art, Photography, Books
Berkeley Artist late 60's, 5'9"/150 sensual, active, healthy, seeks GWM/GAM, slight build, 25-45 for ongoing passionate friendship. ☎ 71231

"ISO Leather Daddy?"
In-shape, blond, 45yo, HIV- son/bot, seeks hung leather daddy 60+ plus into perverse play- bootlicking, piss, smbd, cbi work, butt play & whatever turns you on. I get off seeing mature leather tops- and so do they! ☎ 71232

Str8 Hairy Stud ISO Xpert Head!
Love 2b sucked off. My old lady won't do it. Ex-Navy man. Shaved head, stach, go-L 6/160/7" cut. Mushroom head. Big hairy butt & nuts. "Get me out'a the men's john & in 2 the sack, jack!" Jockstrap has me hot 4 a deep milking. ☎ 71233

Seeking Mature Man Of Color!
SWM, 38, 5'7", 140, brn/blue, cute, boyish, witty, charming, educated, very oral, bottom but also versatile. Uncut, HIV-. For safe sexual fun. Older+, uncut+, Black+, Latin+. ☎ 71254

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

"Black Men!" - WM 5'8", 155 lbs
3 to 4 Black men to service and be their White pussy bitch for a weekend at my place. This bitch will take care of all needs as instructed. ☎ 71234

"I Love Giving Head!"

To hot White & Latino guys 30-45. Me: 6'2" 200lbs, GWM - great mouth and throat for your pleasure. HIV- please. Lv msg. ☎ 71235

Shy? Working Out Your Body? Do
You like looking at yourself? Feeling yourself? "Good!" Would you like to show it off as I watch & encourage you? Compliment you? Me: handsome Latin 40, house in Sonoma County. ☎ 71236

-Asian Top!
Seeking submissive bottom White boy slave for painfully loving encounters. Boy should be clean-shaven, thin to average build, much younger preferred. I'm 39, 5'6", 140lbs. ☎ 71237

-FF Butts Wanted-
Make me copy of any FF tape, in return my med hands up your butt for hours. BM 5'8", 185 welcome any race, your place. ☎ 71239

SR GWM ISO Mature GBM
For mutual touch, 40, I'm 60's, 5'9", 155# beard. You're 45+ clean/healthy, medium to beefy. Facial hair A+. N/D ☎ 71240

"Between Boyfriends?"
Oral service for lean tight guy with big meat. Blacks A+. Juicy head from experience sword swallower, with brains, sense of humor, 40's. Call me. ☎ 71241

"This Boy Needs Some Lovin!"
GWM, 42, 180#, romantic, uncut, hairy, seeks passionate extremely hairy daddy types, 40-60 for romance and fun. ☎ 71242

-Enjoy Hot Phone Sex?
Then give me a call. GWM, 45, 165lbs, 7"cut. Enjoy mutual oral sex and being a top. Am good at tuning into your desires. No S/M. ☎ 71243

Pete Is Coming & NDS 2b Rode!
Horny, hunky Italian, formerly of Sanchez Street & now residing in Orlando, will be visiting SF may 1st thru 18th. Total btm, neds to get screwed - a lot. Don't miss it. ☎ 71255

Milkmank Lookin For Good Gumbjob
If you're a "toothless tiger" and can deep-throat a big head while "gummin" the base of a thick shaft, I'm your man. 6', 170, 43, laid-back man. Long chive sessions a real turn-on! ☎ 71284

Masculine, Hairy, Hung!
HIV- 5-9, blue eyes, salt pepper hair, 61 in great shape. Into arts, exercise, professional, Santa Cruz, dating or picture exchange for preview ok. ☎ 71256

GWM Seeks Man Of Color Top!
For friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 46, blonde, HIV+, slim. Like outdoors, nature, mutual massage, the arts, music. Please call. ☎ 71257

-Foreskin Lover!
GWM 50yo loves to give head to uncut men any age race, out cock ok if over 8". Long slow and deep. Lay back and relax. No games. ☎ 71258

"I Suck Asian Cock!"
Attractive White boy, early 30's, loves uncut Asian cock. If you're Asian, 20-30's, and have a nice uncut cock, I'll suck you off. You can feed it all to me! ☎ 71259

-Weightlifting Nude-
Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71260

Blonde Daddies Boy Great Butt
For the right man. Be tall and big play daddy scenes, daytime verbal & exciting. Aroma A+. ☎ 71238

Santa Rosa, S.F. On Wknds
48-59", 145#, gymtoned, tan, handsome & hot, stable, sincere, Spiritual. Enjoy hot tub, massage, & hot sex- seeks in shape guys only. ☎ 71261

Balls, Balls, Balls...
Very Bi curious looking w/50 to kiss, fondle, lick, suck, loose low hangers mutual J/O, maybe more a/w any age/weight. ☎ 71262

"Naughty Butt Nice!"
Me: goodlooking, 5'8", 155#, smooth, 48yo. Hot bottom needs spanking, probing, & discipline. You: trim daddy, or other, who enjoys a sub-boy. ☎ 71263

"ISO Tit Pigs!!!!"
Hungry to suck on my big beaut nips, masculine, dominant dad 52yo solid tight muscular bod. Shaved head, tats, defined hairy chest w big nips. Also ISO men who are huge, not just big tits. ☎ 71263

"AI"- SF, 4-22-01
Al of SF. You responded to my ad #7131. "Older Black Men" on 4/22. Your phone number was incomplete. Please call again. ☎ 71285

-Voyeur!
50's gay couple seeks third to watch. ☎ 71292

Hairy Top GBM WM Wanted!
Me: 150# slim hairless GWM mid 40 7"cut into butt, dick. Play open to most role clothing WS & other kink. ☎ 71286

Wanted: "Hung Guys!"

I am looking for guys who are hung "9" inches or larger for a fun time with me. I am hung "9" so give me a call. ☎ 71287

"Hot, Horny, Asian Into Sex!"
I'm lots of fun, high energy. 5'7", 129lbs with lean, tanned build. Into exploring different scenes. Slender guys big plus! Age/race not important. ☎ 71289

--Attention Hairy Guys!!--
I um me on! 42yo. Hot bottom wants to service your needs & make you feel good! HIV- only! Lv msg. ☎ 71290

Wanted: Hung Men For Servicing
Goodlooking White guy 40, 188, with dark brown hair, mustache, smooth body, and blue eyes seeks well endowed men for sucking. Only men between 20-45 need apply. All nationalities welcome. ☎ 71291

I'm A Butt Banger, 47 And Hung
Looking for masculine, experienced men who like it from behind (I use the stop and withdraw method). Over 40 and husky build a plus. East Bay. ☎ 71312

Feed Boy Ur Daddick 4 Smooth Job
WM, 45/6/170, baldbuzz, bearded digs orally servin' verbal w/ thick-dick. In gear, ukikback or fuckface, longslowdeep. HIV- ub2, no drugs. Options: lilegloves, gars, reds, spit, cuffs? ☎ 71313

Bubble Butt Bottom Wanted
By WM, 49, 6', 170lbs, top, great shape. Be slim to muscular, like to get rimmed & fucked, between 30-50. Prefer Asian, HIV+ only. No fats or fens. ☎ 71314

-Your Personal Cocksucker!
Talented hungry attractive 37yo guy seeks laid back hung 24 to 44yo with slim to medium build to suck off regularly. I'm HIV+ healthy. Serious only please. ☎ 71315

Stocky, Hefty, Chubby, Fat
GBM, 48yo, 5'11", 250lbs. Seeks big men for versatile, uninhibited sexual pleasure. Big, hefty men only. Discretion required. ☎ 71328

"Be My Sweet Hairy Daddy!"
GWM, 42, 180# seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Must be outgoing and affectionate. Please be hairy! ☎ 71329

-This Boy Needs Some Lovin!
GWM 42, 180#, romantic, uncut, hairy seeks extremely hairy daddy types 40-60 for romance and fun. Extremely hairy guys please! ☎ 71330

Touch Stoke Squeeze Shoot
Is your favorite part of a massage "getting off"? I specialize in concentrating on your mid-section w/ intense attention to your cock and balls w/ my mouth and hands. Oiled up & keeping you on the edge of cumming 55, clean/healthy ub2. No \$. No reciprocity, just relax and enjoy. ☎ 71327

-Striptease: Lost Art?
SF-connoisseur, seeks only cut Caucasian or Hispanic masculine star, 20-32, mid-twenties preferred. Impressive face and physique, charisma and presentation skills required. Safe, confidential fun. ☎ 71288

"Oral Master Seeks Oral Slave!"
Young looking-acting mid 70's master-daddy seeks a goli/g 18-45 HIV-slave or son for ongoing light S&M, B/D safe. No anal scenes. ☎ 71331

-Wear A Toolbelt To Work?
Tall 28yo/guy, seeks goodlooking, in-shape, straight/Bi Construction worker, who will let me play with his big tool and show me what he can do with it. ☎ 71332

FETISHES

Healthy Kinky 58 Y.O.
Bottom manufactures plenty of warm brown lube so you'll never stop at a drugstore. ☎ 71244

"I Clean Dirty Cocks".....
And strap-ons after and before you go in. Humiliation and piss needed by this healthy 58 yo. bottom guy. Phone-- ☎ 71245

Derby Dude's/ Cholos, Skimask
Skinhead, 28, bootstomper seeks chols, thugs, punks, old school guys who wear derby jackets, Ben Davis, steel toe boots. I dig servicing. ☎ 71247

Nipple Workout Partner Let's
Work on each others nipple until we explode. All levels of experience. GWM, 38yo, hairy chest seeks similar. ☎ 71264

Beat This Man....
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Best gay cop in 'Worst' new movie

William Fichtner plays gay for director Sam Weisman

by Tim Nason

The new M-G-M comedy *What's the Worst that Could Happen?* tells the tale of Kevin (Martin Lawrence), a career criminal, and Max (Danny DeVito), a ruthless, perverted billionaire intent on making his life miserable.

The biggest reason that any gay man with a sense of humor will want to see the film is not to see DeVito in his funniest performance since *Ruthless People*, but to witness comic actor William Fichtner's genius. If there is any justice, Fichtner will be nominated for next year's Best Supporting Actor Award, for his role as the queeny, hilarious Boston Police Detective Alex Tardio.

Director Sam Weisman filmed Boston in spectacular fashion. He even made the incomplete Lenny Zakim/Bunker Hill Bridge (the longest suspended bridge in the world) look operational.

Weisman began his career in television directing over 70 episodes of *Family Ties* in the early '80s, when he became friends with actor Michael J. Fox. "I decided to help Mike's foundation out with a benefit screening for a couple of reasons," Weisman said about *What's the Worst's* East Coast premiere. "A lot of people who worked on the film wanted a local premiere. But I wanted something more than that, I wanted to do



William Fichtner and Martin Lawrence in *What's the Worst...?*

something for a charity that meant something to me. Since I have known Michael for a long time and deeply care about his ordeal, I decided to do something for him. I am very grateful to him for agreeing to appear at the benefit. He does not make many personal appearances."

About Fichtner's gay character, Weisman said, "His scenes, I hear, are getting the biggest laughs in the film." I had to agree

with him. At the screening I attended in Los Angeles, which had its share of gays in the audience, the laughs were nonstop whenever Fichtner appeared. In one of the movie's funniest scenes, Fichtner is walking his dogs in Boston's gay mecca, the South End. According to Weisman, Fichtner ad-libbed the line, "Pull me like a chariot."

Fichtner, whom I wanted to interview for this piece, was filming

a new movie in Morocco and unavailable. "He is totally unrecognizable in this role, isn't he?" Weisman asked. I had not remembered that Fichtner appeared as the tough fisherman in last summer's hit *The Perfect Storm*.

"He is truly a chameleon," reflected Weisman. "I buffed his character up from the book the movie's based on. In the book, the character was more like Pat on

Saturday Night Live. We made him a cross between David Bowie, Tennessee Williams, Truman Capote and Mike Nichols. You know, Mike Nichols has that condition where he has no eyebrows. It makes his character very neutral." ▼

What's the Worst that Could Happen? opens wide June 1.

Stagestruck

by Gregg Shapiro

Some recent reissues of original Broadway cast recordings serve as reminders of the musical theater's rich past.

Bells are Ringing (Sony Classical) by Betty Comden, Adolph Green and Jule Styne opened on Broadway 45 years ago. The musical romantic comedy tells the story of Ella Peterson, played by the wonderful Academy Award-winning actress Judy Holliday, an operator at Susanswerphone, a telephone answering service. Talk about a period piece! Directed by Jerome Robbins, and choreographed by Robbins and Bob Fosse, *Bells* contains songs that have since become part of the American songbook, including "The Party's Over," "Just in Time," and "It's a Perfect Relationship" (with the lines, "I'm in love with a man/PLAZA 0 double four double three/It's a perfect relationship/I can't see him, he can't see me.") The expanded reissue also features three bonus tracks including "Boogie Woogie Shoggy, Baby of Mine," which had been cut from the show.

More than 30 years later, Andrew Lloyd Webber's *The Phantom of the Opera* was a perfect example of the excesses of London theater transplanted to Broadway. We'd already seen the signs (*Cats*, *Les Miserables*) that this kind of over-the-top show business was coming our way, but once audiences saw the chandelier crash to the stage, they were hooked. The original cast recording of *The Phantom of the Opera* (Really Useful/Decca Broadway), which introduced the world to Sarah Brightman (as Christiane Daae) and Michael Crawford (the titular character), has been re-released in a newly remastered edition. Like some of the songs in *Bells are Ringing*, songs from *The Phantom of the Opera*, such as "Think of Me," "The Music of the Night," and "All I Ask of You," have become a part of the popular music vocabulary.

Please step back into the time machine for a second. If there was an equivalent of *The Phantom of the Opera* in the 1960s, it was probably *Fiddler on the Roof*, which opened on Broadway in 1964 and in London in 1967 (20 years before *Phantom* hit Broadway). Topol, who played Tevye in the movie version, also played the lead character in the London production, and you can hear him on the original London cast recording of *Fiddler on the Roof* (Sony Classical). This expanded reissue includes early sketches of a few songs and a demo of "We Haven't Missed a Sabbath Yet," the original

show-opener.

'Hair' cuts

There are few pieces that capture the '60s better than the rock musical *Hair*. The expansive reissue of the 1968 Original London Cast Recording of *Hair* (Decca Broadway) features all of the familiar, beloved songs from the musical, as well as songs from *Fresh Hair* (1970), which included several songs that were cut from the original theatrical production. Other notable facts about this reissue include some of the cast members who went on to achieve a degree of fame and notoriety. Marsha Hunt, who shares lead vocals on "Black Boys," was once a paramour of Mick Jagger. Tribe B chorus members Elaine Paige and Maxine Nightingale may also be familiar to some. Paige performed lead roles in many Lloyd Webber musicals, and Nightingale had hit songs during the 1970s with "Right Back Where We Started From" and "Lead Me On." Other reissues of note in the Decca Broadway series include *Man of La Mancha* (with Richard Kiley), Arlen and Harburg's *Bloomer Girl* (which starred Celeste Holm), and Rodgers & Hart's *A Connecticut Yankee*.

The flimsy of *Fiddler on the Roof* would have to be *Godspell*, which actually has more in common with *Hair*. The 2000 Off-Broadway cast recording of *Godspell* (Fynsworth Alley/Varese Sarabande) is an updated version of the early-'70s Christian musical. The band Shirley Temple of Doom supplies the rocking musical backbone, and the young and enthusiastic cast infuses Stephen Schwartz's musical with a *Rent*-like energy, especially on "Day by Day."

It's easy to understand Rosie O'Donnell's weird fascination with *Seussical the Musical*. In addition to being in the right age-group for Dr. Seuss' books to have been a part of her childhood, O'Donnell also has young children with whom she wants to share the joys of Seuss. Overflowing with familiar characters from Seuss' books such as *Horton the Elephant*, *The Cat in the Hat*, and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, the songs of lyricist Lynne Ahrens and composer Stephen Flaherty make them sing, sometimes in unexpected ways. For instance, "It's Possible (McElligot's Pool)," with its Beach Boys musical reference, certainly broadens the appeal of the song. Turning "Green Eggs and Ham" into a military marching song is also a unique twist. The messages in the songs don't stray too far from the child pop-psychology of the books, making them as light as Gertrude McFuzz's tail-feather. ▼

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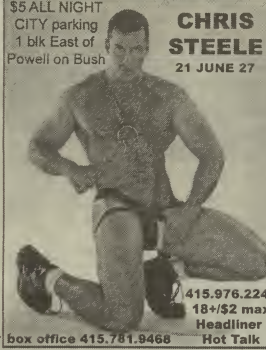
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Rufus Wainwright

Striking 'Poses'

Rufus Wainwright evolves

by Gregg Shapiro

Working mostly with Sarah McLachlan's producer Pierre Marchand on his new album *Poses* (Dreamworks), Rufus Wainwright met and then exceeded my expectations for this follow-up to his lauded self-titled debut disc. There's remarkable humor and warmth to "Cigarettes and Chocolate Milk," and both "Rebel Prince" and the title track are reminiscent of his first album.

"I've known Pierre since I was 12," Rufus said. "I worked with him before Sarah worked with him, a long time ago." He also worked with Alex Gifford on the song "Shadows," which they co-wrote, as well as Damiah McGassick (k.d. lang's *Invisible Summer*) on the song "The Tower of Learning." The album's most surprising track, the electric "Evil Angel," features Melissa Auf Der Mar (formerly of Hole) playing bass.

There are enough piano and vocal songs on *Poses* to satisfy fans of your first album, but you definitely expanded the sound.

A lot of it is due to Pierre. He really was merciless, in terms of my songwriting and my ideas. If he didn't like something at all, he just didn't do it. But if he really liked something, he worked with it. Everything that was put out was 100% enjoyed by both of us. We both really fought for what songs we wanted. It was a rigorous, good thing for the music to go through.

One of the examples of the expansion is "Greek Song," which has Asian instrumentation. Who's playing that?

This Indian girl in Montreal, who Pierre and I heard on a record by this guy named Rama Sutra. There was this dance Indian music that was happening. We heard this woman on the song; and we immediately hired her.

"Shadows" sounds as if you are making use of some of the available technology (drum loops, etc.)

I think it was necessary to investigate what's happening. I enjoyed the last experience of the more traditional string sessions a lot, but I want to expand into dif-

ferent directions.

"California" has some wonderful pop culture references that add humor, but it sounds as if, underneath, there is a love/hate relationship going on with the state of California. Is that true?

Yes, I think it's a common thread. It's funny, because there have been a lot of songs about California, "Californication" and "Hotel California." This is my version. I have a severe love/hate thing. I don't live there right now, but when I first moved there, I was like, "Where has this been all my life?" It's so gorgeous, and there's so much happening. But there are massive fronts in California and very little backs. It is like a movie set.

Is the spoken snippet at the beginning of "Grey Gardens" from the movie?

Yes, I'm actually meeting one of the filmmakers, one of the Maysles. They're re-releasing it, I think on DVD. They're going to film me and some other people talking about it. I've seen it over 10 times. It really changed my life when I saw that movie. It's about Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy Onassis' crazy aunt and cousin.

You do a cover of "One Man Guy," which was written by your father, Loudon Wainwright III.

In my opinion, it's one of the greatest songs ever written. In a lot of ways, my family has always dealt each other in songs. In many ways we've been closer on stage or closer in the studio singing about each other than we have been in real life.

Melissa Auf Der Mar playing on "Evil Angel" is something of a surprise. At one point, you almost sound like Thom Yorke of Radiohead.

All I can say is that I've got to perform it a lot, because in order to hit a lot of those notes and get into that Led Zeppelin-y kind of moan, it's going to take a lot of practice. ▼

Rufus Wainwright plays the Wotapalava gay music festival, August 3 at the Shoreline Amphitheater.

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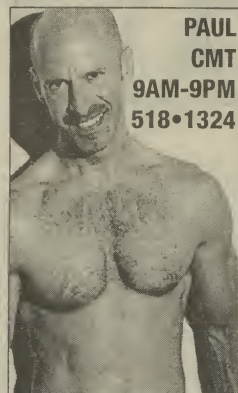
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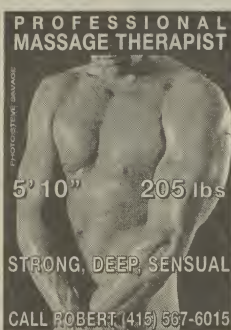
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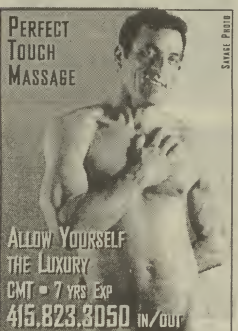
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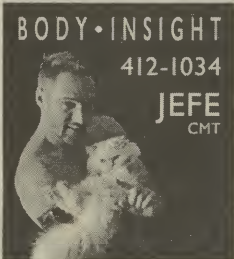
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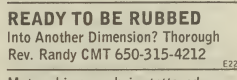
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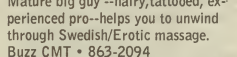
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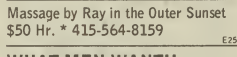
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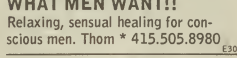
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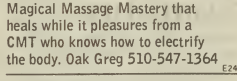
Massage by Ray in the Outer Sunset \$50 Hr. * 415-564-8159



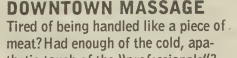
WHAT MEN WANT!!
Relaxing, sensual healing for conscious men. Thom * 415.505.8980



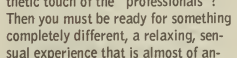
Magical Massage Mastery that heals while it pleases from a CMT who knows how to electrify the body. Oak Greg 510-547-1364



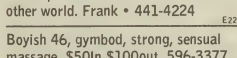
DOWNTOWN MASSAGE
Tired of being handled like a piece of meat? Had enough of the cold, apathetic touch of the "professionals"? Then you must be ready for something completely different, a relaxing, sensual experience that is almost of another world. Frank * 441-4224



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CASTRO BEST MASSAGE
\$60/HR. 552-9852. Pgr245-5966



BikPapi CMT 5'8 177 8 facelink. com/bikpapi 323-459-4117 Outcalls only moving 2 SF soon. Swedish, Sports Deep tissue Nude



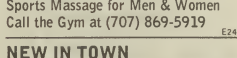
GUERNEVILLE
Sports Massage for Men & Women
Call the Gym at (707) 869-5919



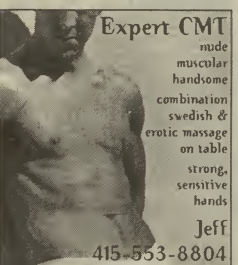
NEW IN TOWN
Incredible massage given by clean-cut handsome guy 5'10", 155Lbs, brown/blue smooth, lean, muscular body. Call Matt 24 Hrs. (415) 267-4821



SEXY LATIN BOY DANNY
Sensual nude massage, young handsome guy. In/Out 305-6856. Do It!!!



DISCOUNT MSSG
CMT \$20/\$30/\$40 (415) 775-4771 24hrs.



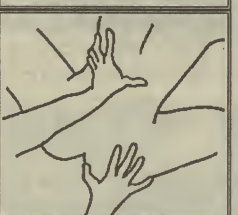
Expert CMT
nude muscular handsome combination swedish & erotic massage on table strong, sensitive hands
Jeff
415-553-8804



Erotic Massage
Young CMT
In or out
Eric
415 816 6288



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Journey into butt attention. Explore rare exotic BUTT TECHNIQUES delightfully blended into FULL BODY massage. By appointment. \$80. San Bruno. 650-875-8130



STRONG HANDS SENSITIVE & EXPERIENCED
From Stress Reduction to Simple Relaxation
STEVE C.M.T.
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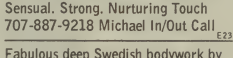
LOVING STROKES
Nurturing, Sensual Healing, Satisfying



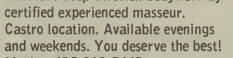
FULL BODY MASSAGE
Sensual. Strong. Nurturing Touch
707-887-9218 Michael In/Out Call



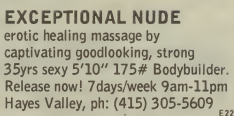
Fabulous deep Swedish bodywork by certified experienced masseur. Castro location. Available evenings and weekends. You deserve the best! Mark • 415-861-5441




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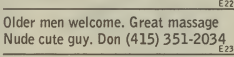
EXCEPTIONAL NUDE
erotic healing massage by captivating goodlooking, strong 35yrs sexy 5'10" 175# Bodybuilder. Release now! 7 days/week 9am-11pm Hayes Valley, ph: (415) 305-5609



FEEL THE DIFFERENCE
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RUSSIAN RIVER
Body shaving. Body electric exper. by well-built, sexy stud. \$50. Out Extra 707-865-2093. • Bob



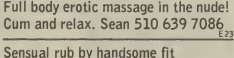
Older men welcome. Great massage Nude cute guy. Don (415) 351-2034



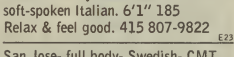
Relax You With My Hands Rob, 35, 6'1", 195, handsome. \$55/ In Anytime. Call (415) 845-4807



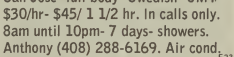
EAST BAY BLOND MASSEUSE
Full body erotic massage in the nude! Cum and relax. Sean 510 639 7086



Sensual rub by handsome fit soft-spoken Italian. 6'1" 185 Relax & feel good. 415 807-9822



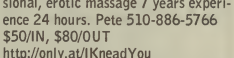
San Jose - full body - Swedish - CMT \$30/hr - \$45/ 1 1/2 hr. In calls only. 8am until 10pm - 7 days - showers. Anthony (408) 288-6169. Air cond.



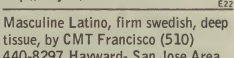
EAST BAY BEAR
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http://only.at/IKneadYou



Masculine Latino, firm swedish, deep tissue, by CMT Francisco (510) 440-8297 Hayward - San Jose Area



Berkeley. Esalen/Sports Massage Visa/MC Kent CMT (510) 845-3036



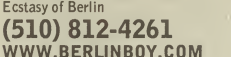
EROTIC MASSAGE DANNY
Enjoy a full body massage by a sexy Latino guy. In/Out 305-6856



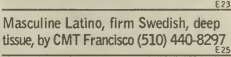
GREAT BODYWORK
Swedish/Trager/deep tissue Sensual-nurturing-replenishing Call Jef @ 415-706-1630 mail to: jefsfca@hotmail.com



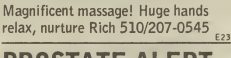
SUPERTOUCHE!
X-lent Massage Work 208-8099



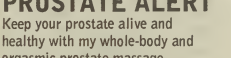
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(510) 812-4261
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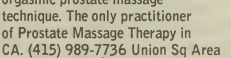
Masculine Latino, firm Swedish, deep tissue, by CMT Francisco (510) 440-8297



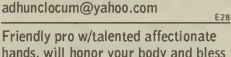
Magnificent massage! Huge hands relax, nurture Rich 510/207-0545



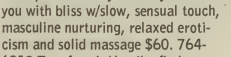
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Keep your prostate alive and healthy with my whole-body and orgasmic prostate massage technique. The only practitioner of Prostate Massage Therapy in CA. (415) 989-7736 Union Sq Area adhunclocum@yahoo.com



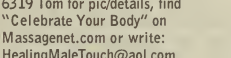
Friendly pro w/talented affectionate hands, will honor your body and bless you with bliss w/slow, sensual touch, masculine nurturing, relaxed eroticism and solid massage \$60. 764-6319 Tom for pic/details, find "Celebrate Your Body" on Massagenet.com or write: HealingMaleTouch@aol.com



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A superior massage delivered by handsome inshape pro. 5ft.10 170lbs 34yrs old Friendly service Tom (510) 912-2638



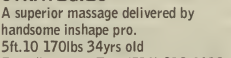
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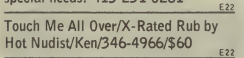
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Firm, fullbody erotic massage for fit, trim men. Muscular, warm CMT 5'6" 145# 30" w, gymbody. Nights/Wknds 582-8273, www.rourywork.net

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5'7"x135# smooth 23yo relaxing
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32 • 6'3" • 190
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Fullbody erotic pleasure from warm, caring versatile guy. \$40 an hour.
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A superior massage delivered by handsome inshape PRO
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Great nude massage/ 290-2041/ \$50

MESSAGE
Thorough, enlivening
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FITNESS MODEL
Warm sensual powerful hands. Hot! Smooth defined "Statue of David" build. W/ends only. Cert CMT 310•2930

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ASIAN TOP
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Mike, 36, 5'10", 200#, BI/Blu
Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk
In/Out \$100 (415) 863-8932

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Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
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10" X 6" CUT 6' 6" 220 BR/BL 45Y0
XTRA HUNG DAD
All scenes -kink- 24 hrs 255-8093
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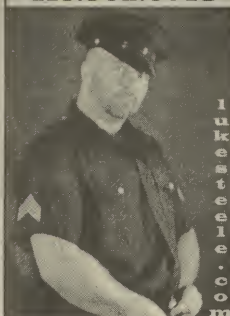
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Handsome hung Italian 34, 6', 160
CHOKE ON THIS!

Tight lean bod hairy chest/legs
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gentle strength & arousing edge
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415-256-6743 TomBusStonexx@aol

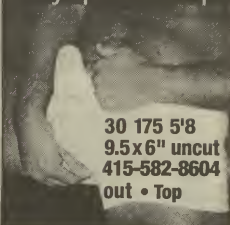
MODEL/ESCORTS

6' 230# In/Out
THICK / SOLID
415.902.0748



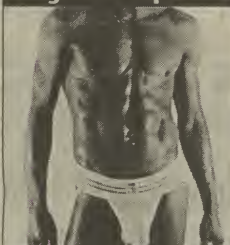
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Horny Spanish Scorpion



30 175 5'8
9.5x6" uncut
415-582-8604
out • Top

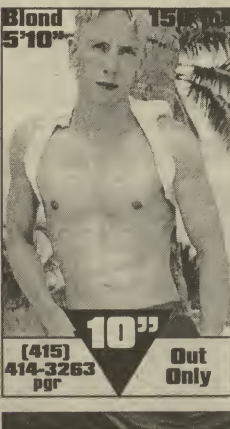
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Extreme Goodik Masc. SF only.
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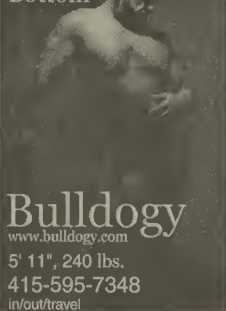


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college boy



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100 in/more out. Ez freeway+ Bart
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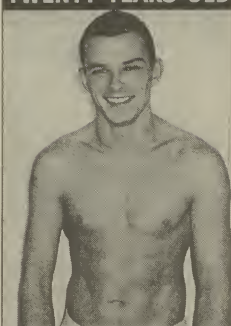
Get Naked/Relax/Hug/Release/
Oral/8" Nudist/346-4966/Ken/\$60

AFFECTIONATE

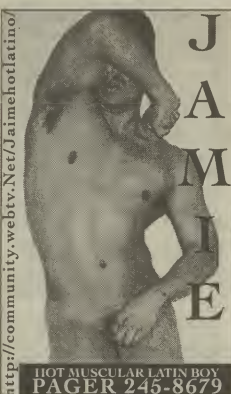
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7" cut Hot BubbleButt Cleancut
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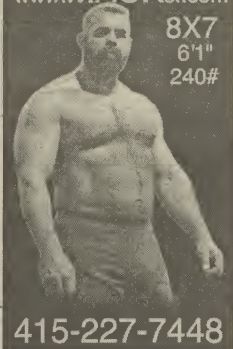
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Very handsome, very sexy, big
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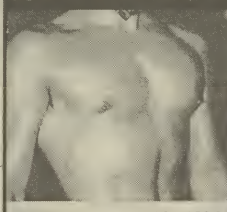
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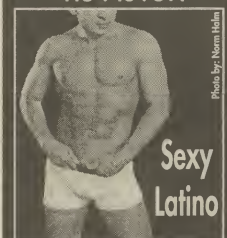
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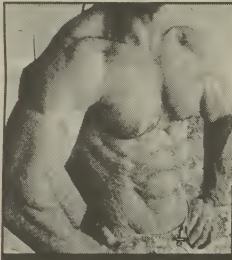
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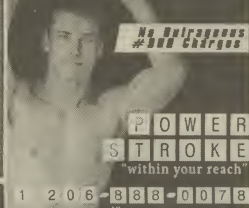
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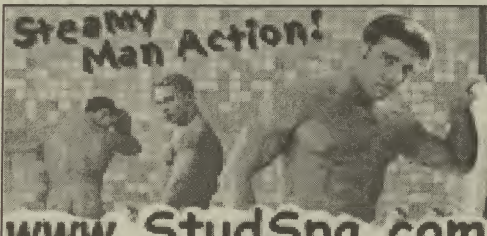
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noon - 5pm



Free Community Day in the Park
Best in Local Entertainment
Activities for the Entire family

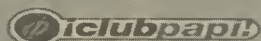
SUNDAY June 10

9:30am 26th Annual Parade

Market Street between Santa Clara & Park

11:00am Gay Pride Festival Discovery Meadow

Headliner Entertainment, Country Western Dance Area, Leather Alley



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Other Pride Events

Santa Cruz Pride Celebration
Sunday, June 3
www.santacruzpride.org

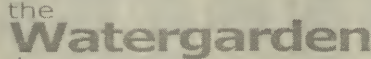
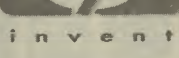
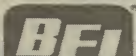
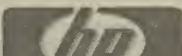
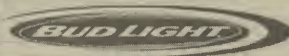
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